

Organisations offer assistance

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Queen Aia Jordan Social Welfare Fund, the Jordanian Association of Boy Scouts and Girl Guides and the Jordanian Save the Children Fund have offered to help the national effort to extend care and relief to families evacuated from Iraq and Kuwait passing through Jordan, a spokesman said Wednesday. The spokesman said the offer was presented by Her Royal Highness Princess Basma in response to directives issued by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan to the Hashemite Jordan Voluntary Commission for Relief. Princess Basma, head of the three organisations, met with the secretary-general of the Hashemite Jordan Voluntary Commission for Relief and discussed means of cooperation and coordination among the organisations concerned in offering assistance to the evacuees, the spokesman added.

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'Give peace a chance'

- King to start new Arab effort on Gulf today ● There is still room for objective diplomacy, he says ● The alternative is disastrous
- Intimidation will not work ● Saudis were misinformed
- Talks with Bush 'constructive' ● All Jordanians are united

By Ghadeer Taher
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein said Wednesday he believed there was room for diplomacy to resolve the Gulf crisis and announced that he was resuming his efforts to contain the problem within an Arab context with a tour of Arab states beginning Thursday.

In an obvious reference to the Aug. 10 Arab summit held in Cairo which highlighted the deep rift within the Arab League, the King said: "We will continue our efforts which have been stopped ever since the crisis broke out on

the Arab level and with those of our brethren who are able to cooperate with us, who didn't rule themselves out by adopting emotional positions."

"I will begin to move within the next 24 hours," he told reporters at a press conference held at the Royal Palace. He did not give details of his travel plans.

At the Cairo Arab summit, 12 of the Arab League's 21 members voted in favour of a resolution calling for the deployment of an Arab force to Saudi Arabia to join the American-led multinational forces already stationed there. Jordan and Yemen, Iraq's two partners in the Arab Coop-

eration Council (ACC), and Algeria abstained, while Libya, and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) voted against, and Sudan and Mauritania voiced reservations.

"I believe that we are almost facing a crisis of a world gone mad," said the King, in reference to the massive American-led multi-national military build-up in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf.

The King said his main objectives at this point in time were: "Bringing about a halt to the escalation to the crisis and beginning a process of deescalation, and certainly to prevent an explosion whether by calculation or by

miscalculation which could devastate this region and the world."

These were the same objectives he carried with him to the U.S. for his meeting with U.S. President George Bush Aug. 16, the King said, reaffirming that he did not carry "any message from anyone."

To Bush, he said, "I came back with a degree of comfort of what I felt was a genuine desire to halt the rapid and uncontrolled escalation of the situation in this area."

The U.S. talks were "constructive," the King said.

The ultimate objective of his forthcoming efforts, he said, was to "find a solution which is lasting... an Arab solution. I will begin to move in the next 24 hours and I will continue to

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Jordan to get Saudi crude

AMMAN (J.T.) — Saudi Arabia has agreed to supply Jordan with one million barrels of crude oil in September, Oil Minister Thabet Al Taher said Wednesday.

Asked about a report from an Arab diplomat that Riyadh had agreed to pump 33,000 barrels per day to Jordan through a currently discussed pipeline, Taher told Reuters: "Yes, it is true."

Jordan currently gets almost all its crude oil from Iraq but has come under fierce Western pressure to observe U.N. sanctions against Baghdad for its Aug. 2 takeover of Kuwait.

"It will be one million barrels in September," Taher said. Future quantities would be agreed on a monthly basis, he added.

Oil industry sources said Jordan requirements were about 2.1 million barrels a month.

Taher said terms and payment were "subject to arrangements which will take place with the Saudis."

Asked if Jordan would get any oil from Iraq in September, he said: "Still this is not clear yet."

An Arab diplomat said earlier that Amman had asked Saudi Arabia about two weeks ago to resume oil supplies and Riyadh had approved the request Tuesday, Reuters reported.

Before it invaded Kuwait Iraq supplied Jordan with 82.5 per cent of its oil needs of around 70,000 barrels per day (b/d).

Taher, who is 1,300 kilometres long, passes through Saudi Arabia, Syria and Lebanon. Its flow has been continuously disrupted since the 1967 war because some of it passes through the Golan Heights.

It originates from oilfields in eastern Saudi Arabia.

Jordan, PLO discuss Arab solution to crisis

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein received Wednesday at the Royal Court Farouk Qaddoumi, head of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) political department, and exchanged views with him on efforts exerted to contain the Gulf crisis and find a solution to the problem within an Arab context.

The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem as well as the delegation accompanying Qaddoumi and the Palestinian ambassador to Amman.

King meets Soviet envoy

King Hussein also received at the Royal Court Soviet envoy Mikhail Sytenko and exchanged with him views on the developments in the Gulf crisis. The meeting was attended by Prince Hassan, Qasem and the Soviet ambassador to Jordan.

Jordan submits memo on Iraq sanctions to U.N.

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan Wednesday submitted an official memorandum to the president of the U.N. Security Council outlining the negative consequences on the Kingdom of resolution 661, which calls on member states to impose sanctions against Iraq for its takeover of Kuwait on Aug. 2, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

Jordan's U.N. representative, Abdullah Salah, was conducting intensive consultations with members of the Security Council, with the purpose of explaining the Kingdom's position on the resolution and its impact on the country's economy, Petra, said.

"These consultations and negotiations," Petra said, "were being conducted on the basis of Article 50 of the U.N. Charter."

That article states the following: (rough translation):

"If the Security Council imposes sanctions against any country, any other state, whether a member of the U.N. or not, which is economically affected by those sanctions, can discuss its problems with the council with a view to solving them."

Since Jordan views Resolution 661 as harmful to its economic interests, Petra said, the Kingdom has resorted to the council to explain the economic problems that will arise as a result of applying that resolution.

Yaqub Khan: Pakistan opposes use of force

AMMAN (J.T.) — Pakistani Foreign Minister Shahbaz Qayyum Khan wound up a two-day visit to Jordan Wednesday by announcing that his country was opposed to the use of force to settle disputes and interference in the internal affairs of other countries.

"We believe that resolving of the (Gulf) crisis requires the withdrawal of Iraqi forces and the restoration of the sovereignty and independence of Kuwait," said Yaqub Khan in a statement before leaving Amman at the end of a two-day visit to Jordan.

Yaqub Khan, who was received in audience by His Majesty King Hussein and who discussed the Gulf crisis with Jordanian officials, said that as a result of discussions "we now have a better understanding of Jordan's perceptions and viewpoint."

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Jordan closes border until backlog cleared

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan closed its border with Iraq as of midnight Wednesday until "excessive numbers of incoming foreign expatriates have returned to their countries."

In a statement he made to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Interior Minister Salem Masa'adeh said the decision was necessitated by the lack of "suitable and sanitary conditions" for their stay in Jordan.

"The decision will be effective until such time when necessary facilities can be provided with the help of any party that can extend help in this regard," he added.

"Most Arab and friendly countries cooperated well in repatriating their nationals," the statement said. "But the numbers of expatriates (who stayed behind

Jordan) have swelled to over 100,000, due to incomplete cooperation by some governments," the statement added. "The problem therefore became too big for the concerned Jordanian authorities to deal with."

"The decision," Mr. Masa'adeh said, "comes out of Jordan's concern for its humanitarian role, which it has not spared any effort in serving."

"The (Jordanian) government, from the beginning of the Gulf crisis, has spared no effort within its capabilities in receiving expatriates of all nationalities from Iraq and Kuwait and in providing facilities and food and transportation (to go back home) for them," the statement said.

"The government had coordinated its actions and procedures with other (concerned) govern-

ments through its diplomatic missions there," the statement added. "This was done with a view to provide sea and air travel for the expatriates in such a way that those remaining can be served within Jordan's capabilities, given the inconvenient desert conditions and the other psychological state of affairs in which those expatriates were going through."

"Out of concern for their health and in order to create suitable conditions during their stay here, the government finds itself forced to close the borders," the statement said.

"The decision takes effect as of midnight Wednesday, and will remain effective until excessive numbers of expatriates have been repatriated."

New banknotes to go into circulation soon

By Fahed Al Fanek
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) is expected to put into circulation shortly new Jordanian banknotes which will be used alongside the current banknotes for several years until all the old paper money has been replaced in the market.

The move's timing coincides with a public rush for cash during the current crisis, and the availability of the new banknotes at the Central Bank.

The new bank notes are expected to be on the market in the coming few days.

The CBJ had decided not to place any restrictions on withdrawals nor did it stop attempts for withdrawing fixed deposits before their date of maturity because there is sufficient liquidity in the country.

The CBJ printed the new banknotes more than 10 years ago, and the time seem to have come now for the substitution, largely because the old banknotes have become worn out and the demand for Jordanian currency is up at this stage.

The new banknotes are not only newer, they are also more difficult to counterfeit, according to officials.

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Bush orders military reserves to active duty

KENNEBUNKPORT (AP) — President George Bush Wednesday ordered military reserves to active duty, signing an order calling up an unspecified number of reservists to bolster the U.S. military effort in the Gulf.

The order did not specify how many reservists would be called up, but White House Press Secretary Martin Fitzwater said, "We do not anticipate approaching the full 200,000 authority provided by law."

"I hereby determine that it is necessary to augment the active armed forces of the United States for the effective conduct of operational missions in and around the Arabian Peninsula," Bush's executive order said.

Bush sent letters to the speaker of the House of Representatives and the president of the Senate to inform them of the action. Bush said his order empowers Secretary of Defence Dick Cheney to designate the reservists to perform missions he "may determine necessary."

An administration official said the Defence Department expects to call up 40,000 reservists "between now and the end of August."

Iraqi call rejected

The White House said Tuesday that the United States had no interest in negotiating with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein while Iraqi troops remained in Kuwait.

Saddam's latest message, directed Tuesday to Bush and read over Iraqi television, was described by Fitzwater as "much of the same rhetoric that we've heard before. Same old litany from Iraq."

Huge wave of evacuees poses enormous difficulties — King

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan is facing grave difficulties in coping with the massive influx of evacuees from Kuwait and Iraq and may have to slow down the flow, His Majesty King Hussein said Wednesday.

"We have some serious problems of a serious dimension," the King told a press

conference. "We have received in Jordan since the beginning of this crisis an approximate number of 185,000. Sixty-seven thousand have left, and we are finding enormous difficulties."

The King, addressing the press conference before Interior Minister Salem Masa'adeh announced that Jordan was temporarily closing its borders for overland entry

from Iraq, said that the problem was "particularly serious with our Egyptian brothers; we have 42,000."

Jordan faced "enormous difficulties in meeting the needs of these people and finding adequate transport" to take them home, the King said.

Two adults and four children had already died on their way through Jordan, the King said.

(Continued on page 4)

Iraq to free some French, Japanese as goodwill move

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Baghdad said Wednesday it would free some French and Japanese nationals trapped in Iraq and Kuwait as goodwill gesture.

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) said the announcement was made by the speaker of the national assembly, Saadi Mehdi Saleh.

There are an estimated 560 French nationals and 508 Japanese including more than 50 children trapped in the two countries.

Saleh made clear Iraq aimed to soften French and Japanese opposition to Baghdad in the Gulf crisis and encourage other countries to change their stand.

It was hoped the releases would help "stop certain parties trailing behind the irrational American stand against Iraq and that others will reconsider actions

against Iraq's interests and harming its sons."

The agency gave other details. Iraq is holding some 13,000 Westerners, some of them at potential civil and military targets of any American attack.

The Iraqi government Wednesday denied a report that it was planning to allow citizens of seven European Community (EC) nations to leave Kuwait, Italian authorities said.

On Tuesday, Iraq's representative in Kuwait had said citizens of Italy, Ireland, Belgium, the Netherlands, Spain, Greece and Denmark would be allowed to travel to Turkey or Jordan via Baghdad, Italian officials said.

But the Italian ambassador in Baghdad was told Wednesday by the Iraqi Foreign Ministry that "there were no plans to grant authorisation to community citizens allowing them to leave Iraq for Turkey or Jordan," the ministry said in a statement.

The press spokesman at the Iraqi

embassy in Rome, Salih Al Karay, confirmed that his country's position "has not changed." He said foreigners would be used as "arms of discussion against war."

Japan's Foreign Ministry called in the Iraqi ambassador earlier Wednesday to demand that Japanese be allowed to leave.

The previous day Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz told a news conference Japanese were not allowed to leave because Tokyo was following the "aggressive policy" of the United States.

Baghdad warned Paris Tuesday that French nationals would be among those used as human shields if French warships joined the United States in blockading Baghdad, Iraq has detained 33 French citizens.

France, with eight warships in the Gulf or on their way, announced Tuesday it would also send land forces to the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

(Continued on page 5)

IN THE NAME OF GOD, THE MERCIFUL AND THE COMPASSIONATE

AN APPEAL TO THE WOMEN OF JORDAN

from the north, south, east and west you are invited to take part in

A WOMEN MARCH

to express support for Jordan's noble and brave stand and to pledge allegiance to Sharif Hussein Ben Talal and to declare unity of ranks in the battle we are waging against the forces of injustice and oppression and in defence of our Islamic shrines and the honour of the Arab Nation.

The march will be held Thursday August 23, 1990 at 4:30 p.m. with the first group of women assembling at the car park of the Shannak Building, Firas Circle, Jabal Hussein. The second group will join the march at Al Hussein College School, Jabal Hussein. The march will proceed to the gates of the Basman Palace.

God is great

God conquers all plots

The preparatory committee for the march
Tel: 819096, 674973, 682522, 667937

APPEAL

MILK & MEDICINE FOR THE CHILDREN OF IRAQ

An appeal directed to the human conscience all over the world, starting from Jordan.

From the children of Jordan to fathers and mothers wherever they are.

The children of Jordan from the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) who are aware there is still a responsive human conscience appeal to all citizens in Jordan, to the local, Arab, regional and international organisations and institutions and the world child organisations and to leaders of the world's countries to end injustice against the children of Iraq who are threatened with being deprived of bread, milk and medicine.

The children of Jordan demand all to implement the principles of the international declaration on children's rights which provides for protecting and taking care of children under all circumstances, in all times and in the days of war and peace alike. The principles of the international declaration on the children's rights by which all the world abide by linking between these rights and the child's basic needs. The declaration's provisions under articles No. 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 10 guarantee the protection and welfare of children as well as social, food, and educational security and their right to grow up in healthy conditions in the times of war, peace and disasters.

The children of Jordan appeal for providing milk, food and medicine supplies for the children of Iraq.

This appeal comes on the eve of convening the world summit for children in which many leaders of the world's countries will take part to protect childhood.

As we head our call from the General Union of Voluntary Services in Jordan we appeal to fathers and mothers to respond favourably to this call. Let us share our food together.

Cash and in-kind donations are received at the following centres:

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GUVS - Karak Governorate	(03)351169
GUVS - Ma'an Governorate	(03)324777
Aqaba Islamic Charitable Society - Aqaba	(03)316130
GUVS - Tafila Governorate	(03)342365
GUVS - Mafrq Governorate	(04)432040

Donations are received daily until 7:00 p.m.

Iraqi News Agency rejects Egyptian call

NICOSIA (AP) — Iraq's official news agency has rejected an "over-simplification" of an appeal by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak for a withdrawal from Kuwait to avert a destructive war in the Gulf.

The agency, monitored in Nicosia, said Mubarak "has oversimplified the topic of the hour. The battle now is between right and wrong; between vice and virtue; between those who have human and national concern about the interests of the poor and the needy and those who have amassed their huge wealth through the illegal possession and theft of the nation's wealth; between nationalism and subordination; between the free people and the tails of the foreigners; be-

tween the values of Islam and those who are distorting the values of Islam and humanity," the agency said.

It added: "When the battle is seen this way... simplification cannot provide radical solutions, no matter how good the intentions are."

Earlier, Mubarak said he was making the appeal to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein "in the name of everything sacred on our Arab soil... in the name of Islam, the religion of peace... in the name of Arab nationalism... in the name of everyman, woman and child on our Arab land."

In urging an Iraqi pullout from Kuwait, Mubarak also asked for restoration of the ousted government of Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah.

Al Azhar condemns Iraq, justifies Western role

CAIRO (AP) — The Muslim World's venerated centre of theology, Al Azhar, and Egypt's highest cleric Tuesday strongly condemned Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and indirectly urged Muslims to fight of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

Al Azhar's Sheikh Gad Al Haq Ali Gad Al Haq and Egypt's Mufti Mohammad Sayed Tantawi also justified the presence of "foreign" forces to defend Saudi Arabia, which many Muslim groups have so far protested.

The statements by Egypt's Mufti Mohammad Sayed Tantawi, and Al Azhar, the ancient university-mosque and seat of Islamic learning, were published in the early editions of Wednesday's state-run dailies.

Mubarak's message, broadcast on radio and television, appealed to Saddam "in the name of Islam, the religion of peace... in the name of Arab nationalism."

The Muslim cleric's statements

was run in Al Akhbar daily's front-page under the headline: "The leader of Iraq is treacherous and Muslims have a duty to fight him."

However, a full text of their comments proved less harsh. After accusing the Iraqi troops of committing crimes in Kuwait, Al Azhar's Gad Al Haq quoted a verse from the Koran recommending the killing of a tyrant, and said: "If the Iraqi leader continues to the end of the destructive road, the Arab and Islamic world must react and save themselves from this tyranny and its armies must encircle the tyrant."

Tantawi too referred to verses from the Koran, which Muslims believe are the direct words of God to the Prophet Mohammad, calling for the execution of a tyrant if he does not redeem.

"The Muslims and their leaders should first try and solve a dispute," he said.

Moscow urges caution on use of force in Gulf

MOSCOW (Agencies) — The Soviet Union urged Wednesday against any hasty use of force in the Gulf crisis and did not disclose whether it would support a U.N. resolution authorising limited military action.

Also on Wednesday, TASS reported that Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov had issued an order to all Soviet agencies to cut off trade and financial business with Iraq in compliance with U.N. sanctions. The Soviet Union cut off arms shipments the day after the Aug. 2 Iraqi takeover of Kuwait.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Yuri Gremitskikh told a news conference that Moscow believed not all diplomatic possibilities had been used to defuse the crisis following Iraq's Aug. 2 take-over of Kuwait.

"We have to use to the fullest the existing potential of peaceful solutions," he said. "We believe that when such a serious thing as the use of force is at issue, however minimal, we must not take hasty actions."

He refused to predict how the Soviet Union would vote on a U.S.-backed Security Council resolution

which calls for use of limited military power to enforce sanctions against Iraq.

"I believe there will be bilateral and multilateral consultations on this matter," he said. "The general situation will prompt the United States and us and China on what to do. It is hard to predict."

He was speaking as Moscow pursued its diplomatic activity, with Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze meeting a special Saudi Arabian envoy, Shevardnadze also sent a message on the crisis to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

Gremitskikh said that special Saudi envoy Prince Bandar Ben Sultan had met Shevardnadze to discuss ways of preventing a flare-up in the region but offered no more details.

The prince is also the Saudi ambassador to Washington. His arrival follows the visit of Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Saoudoun Hammadi, who met with Shevardnadze on Monday.

Arab-Americans say discrimination increases

WASHINGTON (AP) — The incidents are isolated, but the fears of the Arab-American community are pervasive.

A young Palestinian in Chicago is attacked and told to go back to Iraq. An Arab-American newspaper editor in Detroit is warned in a phone call he will die if Americans in Kuwait are harmed. A San Francisco Arab-American professor receives death threats after telling a newspaper he favours a negotiated settlement to the Middle East crisis.

In Cleveland, an Egyptian grocer involved in a minor dispute with some local kids is thrown in jail for a night, and police yell ethnic slurs at him. In

the neighbouring Ohio city of Toledo, a white racist group beats up an Arab-American who refuses to sell his business.

Arab-American organisations and leaders who related these incidents said they are symptomatic of anti-Arab actions that occur whenever tensions rise in the Middle East.

"There's obviously a potential for tarring all Arabs with one brush," said Ann Joyce of the American-Arab Affairs Council.

A prominent Arab-American, Alex Odeh, was killed by a letter bomb in his Los Angeles-area office after the 1985 attack on the Achille Lauro. Mosques were damaged after a TWA airliner was hijacked to Beirut that year.

Thousands joining Iraqi Popular Army — official

LONDON (R) — Iraqis, rising as a people in arms to defend their country against the United States, are pouring into recruiting stations set up in every village, according to a senior Baghdad official.

"All imams are preaching holy war every day against the Americans," Najj Al Hadithi, Iraq's director of information, said in a telephone interview with Reuters.

According to Hadithi, the flood of thousands of recruits to the Popular Army was as strong in the Kurdish north and the Shi'ite south as in the Sunni Muslim heartland where President Saddam Hussein has his power base.

Hadithi said there was no problem about food supplies in general, despite United Nations sanctions imposed on Iraq after its takeover of Kuwait. But imported powdered milk for babies was getting scarce.

"This will affect not only Iraqis," he said. Hardships will be shared by all — Iraqis and fore-

igners." He said he had no figures for the number of Westerners detained in Iraq but "presumably all the foreigners will be relocated at military bases, air force bases, oil refineries and electricity plants in the capital, throughout Iraq and in Kuwait."

He said time was on Saddam's side and that Arab and world backing would gradually fall away from the Americans and the "puppet governments in the Gulf."

The Iraqi people were united behind Saddam, Hadithi said, "because they feel the Americans are fighting the Iraqis with (their blockade of) food and medical supplies. This is not a matter of the Iraqi government but an American action against the population."

Aoun rejects parliament approval of Taif plan

BEIRUT (AP) — Rebel General Michel Aoun Wednesday rejected political reforms less than 24 hours after they were adopted by parliament and called for the overthrow of President Elias Hrawi.

"There is an urgent need to overthrow the west Beirut government. The parliamentary session Tuesday was the last chapter of a conspiracy against Lebanon," Aoun's Radio Lebanon quoted the rebel general as saying. It did not elaborate.

Lebanon's unicameral house Tuesday endorsed political reforms to give Muslims and Christians an equal share of power as an introduction to end the country's 15-year civil war.

The reform plan was worked out by Lebanese legislators under Arab League auspices in 23 days of deliberations at the Saudi Arabian town of Taif last October.

Aoun has rejected the Taif peace plan along with Hrawi's election as president with strong Syrian backing Nov. 24.

Hrawi, a Maronite Catholic like Aoun, was forced to set up temporary residence in west Beirut because the maverick general has refused to withdraw from the presidential palace, the seat of Lebanese heads of state in the Christian suburb of Baabda east of Beirut.

PLO leaders pin their hopes on diplomatic solution to Gulf crisis

By Jonathan Wright
Reuters

BAHRAIN — Leaders of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), one of the first casualties of the Gulf crisis, are clinging to hopes they can limit damage to their cause by conjuring up a diplomatic breakthrough.

PLO officials contacted in Tunis Monday said PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, widely seen as an ally to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, was in reality neutral in the crisis which blew up when Iraq took over Kuwait Aug. 2.

Arafat is promoting a PLO-North African peace plan under which Arab troops would supervise an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and then protect the rights of the neighbouring countries.

"Arafat is the only Arab left in a position to mediate. The alternative is to work for catastrophe," one of his advisers told Reuters Monday.

Another adviser, Hani Al Hassan, is expected to visit Saudi Arabia and its small

Gulf neighbours from Monday to try to persuade them that the plan is a realistic alternative to their present policy of relying on a massive buildup of U.S. and Western forces.

Some 90,000 U.S. troops have already arrived in Saudi Arabia or are heading there. At least 120 warships from the United States, Britain, France and other countries have deployed around Arabia to enforce U.N. sanctions on trade with Iraq.

Diplomatic exchange between Iraq and its opponents have made no tangible progress since the invasion.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has made a series of proposals but none has given a clear promise to withdraw from Kuwait. Washington and London have dismissed them as rhetorical or irrelevant.

The officials said Arafat planned to visit Morocco in the middle of the week to try to recruit King Hassan behind his campaign. Morocco has condemned the invasion of Kuwait and sent troops to protect Saudi Arabia.

The crisis has done immense

damage to the Palestinian cause by diverting attention from the Israeli-occupied territories and splitting an Arab World which during the first half of the year had seldom seemed so united.

The movement then came under conflicting pressures. The rich Gulf states, which traditionally give the PLO most of its money, expected it to condemn Iraq while Palestinians in Jordan and the West Bank looked to Saddam Hussein as a nationalist hero.

PLO officials say the organisation abstained in Arab meetings on the conflict, despite persistent Arab reports that they voted against resolutions condemning Iraq and backing the deployment of U.S. troops.

Western diplomats in Tunis said the PLO was seriously divided and many middle-ranking officials questioned Arafat's willingness to pursue mediation in the face of a widespread belief that war was inevitable.

The divisions came to the surface Sunday when Jaweed

Al Ghusein, chairman of the Palestine National Fund and a member of the PLO Executive Committee, said in Abu Dhabi that Iraq's occupation of Kuwait was an illegal act.

"He said what he said to protect his private business interests in the United Arab Emirates. He's only an independent anyway," a PLO official in Tunis said bitterly. Ghusein is a wealthy businessman.

The Western diplomats said the Gulf crisis was bound to weaken the PLO position, whatever position it took.

"In the short term it obscures their own problem and in the medium term they stand to lose a lot of funds," said one.

One Arafat adviser held out hope that in the long term the Gulf crisis would work in the Palestinians' favour.

"When the dust settles, the only way for the United States to restore its credibility will be to deal with the (Israeli-occupied) West Bank immediately. I think (U.S. President George) Bush will be very strong on that," he said.

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Janet Ross and Dr. Mohammed Mattar
would like to express their deep sorrow for the demise of
Cathrine Ross Enmon,
daughter of Mrs. and Mr. Hugh G. Ross who died of natural causes at the age of 33. She is survived by her husband Mike Ermon and her three children Katelyn, Mike Jr. and Kevi Lynn.
May God Bless Her Soul

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Manglapus to visit Iran

MANILA (AP) — Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus said Wednesday he will visit Iran to negotiate an agreement to supply oil to the Philippines, which is participating in an international embargo on Iraq and Kuwait. In a brief interview with reporters, Manglapus said it would be "a good idea" to also visit Iraq, but did not confirm that he would. Manglapus said he will leave Thursday and make a stopover in India to discuss with the Indian foreign minister plans by the two countries to seek exemptions from some trade sanctions imposed on Iraq by the United Nations. He did not elaborate. He said he would conclude an agreement for an additional 40,000 barrels of oil imports daily from Iran during his visit there.

Swiss probe exports to Iraq

BERN, Switzerland (AP) — Switzerland is investigating whether two companies illegally sold Iraq materials that could be used in making nuclear weapons, the federal prosecutor's office said Tuesday. The office said West German officials, at its request, seized a shipment enroute to Iraq at Frankfurt airport two weeks ago. A West Berlin newspaper that disclosed the case Tuesday, Tageszeitung, said the intercepted parts were covers and bases for a gas centrifuge used in enriching uranium for nuclear weapons use. The manufacturer, Schmiedemechanica SA, described the shipment half-finished cogs made from a special alloy. Its board president, Gianni Martelli, said the company was not aware that the order, worth 48,000 Swiss francs (\$37,000), had nuclear technology uses. Schmiedemechanica had been under investigation since July on suspicion of exporting nuclear technology without a license, prosecutor's office spokesman Roland Hauenstein said. He said the office also opened a probe against a Swiss machine tool maker with business ties to Iraq, Schaublin SA, for possible violation of export laws. However, Hauenstein denied Tageszeitung's report that a Schaublin shipment also was seized at Frankfurt airport. The prosecutor's office and the company declined further comment on the case.

Sudan forces claim they killed 15 rebels

KHARTOUM (AP) — Government troops have killed 15 rebels of the southern Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) and were searching areas in the northern Upper Nile region for more, announced the general command Tuesday. The statement did not specify when or where the combat took place and did not refer to any losses among the government troops. It said a number of rifles and anti-tank rocket-propelled grenades were also captured in the operation. There was no way to independently confirm the government statement as southern Sudan, the scene of a seven-year civil war, is out of bounds for visitors. The rebel SPLA took up arms in 1983 against the government in the north, asking for economic and other reforms for the south.

Jackson trying to arrange trip to Iraq

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Rev. Jesse Jackson said Tuesday he was trying to arrange a trip to Iraq as a television journalist to interview Iraqi officials and American "hostages" for his new syndicated talk show. Jackson told reporters the government of Iraq had indicated that he could interview officials in Baghdad and talk to Americans held in that country. "The Jesse Jackson show," which is scheduled to begin next month, is syndicated by Time-Warner Inc., which Jackson said would help underwrite the trip. Jackson, who previously played a role in seeking to free an American pilot held in Syria, said the purpose of the trip to Iraq would be purely journalistic. "Our purpose will be to communicate with high Iraqi officials and to communicate with Americans held 'hostage' there just as various news organizations have sought to do," Jackson told a news conference. "It would not be appropriate to go there as a diplomat," he said. "In this case it would interfere with what is a growing crisis," said Jackson, who in 1984 travelled to Syria to gain the release of Robert Goodman, a navy pilot who had been shot down. But Jackson indicated that he hoped his trip would help encourage a diplomatic solution.

Bahrain advertises for new recruits

BAHRAIN (R) — Bahrain, just down the coast from Kuwait, advertised Wednesday for army recruits to "defend its independence and sovereignty." A frontpage advertisement in the newspaper Akhbar Al Khaleej also said the defence force wanted officers and men "to defend the country, raise its prestige, protect its achievements." It was the first such call since Iraq's Aug. 2 takeover of Kuwait, about 400 kilometres north of Bahrain. The United States has since sent 30,000 troops to neighbouring Saudi Arabia and thousands more on their way. The defence forces gave no indication how many recruits they wanted and officials were not available to say what the initial response had been. Bahrain had 3,350 men under arms in 1989, according to the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies.

Australian ties with PLO may be affected

CANBERRA (R) — Australia would reconsider its relations with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) if the group supported Iraq in the Gulf crisis, Prime Minister Bob Hawke said Wednesday. "Were the PLO to undertake action, particularly if it were to undertake terrorist action in support of Iraq, we would immediately reconsider our action towards (the PLO) very seriously indeed," Hawke said. Hawke, speaking in parliament, said the government had "heard suggestions" that factions of the PLO might consider action in support of Iraq's position. Australia upgraded relations with the PLO in February 1989, allowing contacts between ministers and PLO officials. The decision followed concern expressed by Australia over Israel's treatment of Palestinians who took part in the uprising.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:45 Programme review
15:55 Children programme
17:10 Book of Adventure
18:00 News summary
18:10 Local programme
19:20 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
21:30 Local series
21:40 Programme review
22:00 Local programme
22:20 Arabic film
22:30 News in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

17:45 Mobsterism
18:10 Des chiffres et de lettres
18:30 La Chance aux chaussons
19:00 News in French
19:15 Documentary
19:20 News in Hebrew
19:45 Varieties
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 The Bill Cosby Show
21:10 The Return of Sherlock Holmes
22:00 News in English
22:20 Feature film: "The Price of Passion"

PRAYER TIMES

06:37 Fajr
06:50 Sunrise/Duha
12:38 Dhuhr
16:16 Asr
19:17 Maghrib
20:30 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedisch Tel. 610740
Archdiocese of God Church, Tel. 62725.

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Teresian Church Tel. 623666

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.

Anglican Church Tel. 623383, Tel. 623543.

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.

Armenian International Church Tel. 827981, 685326.

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817 and 654932.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be fair and winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Asaba, winds will be northerly moderate and was calm.

Misr Jmax temp. 18 / 30

Asaba 24 / 37

Deserts 19 / 32

Jordan Valley 22 / 36

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 31, Asaba 38. Humidity readings: Amman 57 per cent, Asaba 22 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Dr. Ahmad Al Dagg 676473
Dr. Nabil Al Murtadha 622223
Dr. Abdul Hafez Khawaja 791954
Dr. Wael Dumail 774800
First pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asena pharmacy 626772
Nairoukh pharmacy 636770
Al Salem pharmacy 636770
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shamsat pharmacy 675660

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Emergency 630341

Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade 892228

Blood Bank 775121

Highway Police 843402

Traffic Police 896390

Public Security Department 630321

Animal Hospital 605880

Price Complaints 661176

Water and Sewerage 891467

Amman Municipality 787111

Telephone Information 021275555

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

16:15 Riyadh (RJ)
16:30 New Delhi (RJ)
16:30 Cairo (RJ)
16:45 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
16:55 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
17:05 London (RJ)
17:20 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
17:30 Athens (RJ)
17:30 Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)
17:45 Casablanca (RJ)
17:55 Rome (RJ)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

11:45 Rome (RJ)
12:00 London (RJ)
12:15 Paris (RJ)
12:30 Athens (RJ)
12:45 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
12:55 Doha (RJ)
13:00 Cairo (RJ)
13:15 Frankfurt (RJ)
13:30 Zurich, Larnaca (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

08:00 Damascus, Paris (AF)

11:10 Frankfurt (LH)

16:00 Riyadh (SV)

16:40 Bahrain, Muscat (GF)

17:20 Ankara, Istanbul (TK)

17:30 Dubai (EK)

18:20 Cairo (MS)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple 350 / 450
Apricots 350 / 450
Banana 300 / 400
Banana (Mukammal) 450 / 400
Beans 320 / 260
Cabbage 130 / 100

Carrot 230 / 200

Cauliflower 230 / 180

Corn 180 / 140

Cucumber (big) 120 / 80

Cucumber (small) 80 / 140

Eggplant 160 / 120

Figs 300 / 450

Garlic 340 / 280

Grapes 350 / 300

Grapes 250 / 200

Lemon (green) 300 / 250

Lemon (yellow) 450 / 400

Melons 120 / 80

Marrow (big) 100 / 60

Marrow (small) 180 / 140

Onion (dry) 220 / 180

Orange 450 / 400

Ostra 350 / 400

Peaches 380 / 320

Pear 700 / 600

Pepper (big) 200 / 150

Pepper (small) 180 / 120

54,000 Egyptians pass through Jordan in 3 weeks

By Serene Halsea and Ali Masarweh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The greatest number of Arab nationals fleeing from Kuwait and Iraq to Jordan are Egyptians, according to sources at the Rawehed border post. The number reached 54,000 Egyptians coming in since the start of the Gulf crisis, three weeks ago, Egyptian Ambassador to Jordan Mahab Magbul told the Jordan Times Wednesday.

"We would like to thank His Majesty King Hussein and the Jordanian people for their hospitality towards the Egyptians coming in from the Gulf," Magbul said, referring to the help extended by the Jordanian government in providing shelter, food and transportation for the Egyptians.

According to Jordan News Agency, Petra, an Egyptian plane carrying 250 Egyptians

left Aqaba Airport early Wednesday morning heading to Egypt. Several other additional flights have been scheduled to leave Jordan on the same day, in a joint effort by the Royal Jordanian and Egypt Air, to ease the pressure off the already congested port of Aqaba.

"The Jordanian and Egyptian governments have been working closely together to transport Egyptians to Nuweibeh by sea," Kaffan Majali, Aqaba district governor said. He also added that the Aqaba-Nuweibeh sea route is being reinforced by four ferries standing by in the Suez Canal.

In addition to these measures, the Public Transport Corporation has been providing 60 buses for the transportation of Arab nationals, over the past five days, from Al Rawehed border post to Amman and Aqaba.

"Most of the Egyptians and

Yemenis who come to Jordan are penniless. We have not charged them for their transportation fees, but we will send a bill to their respective embassies," a senior official at the Public Transport Corporation, who preferred anonymity, told the Jordan Times Wednesday.

"The Public Transport Corporation has been working closely with the Ministry of Interior and the Civil Defence Department," the official said. He also added that alternate locations in the towns of Amman and Ma'an, have been provided by the ministry and the Civil Defence Department to reduce pressure on the overcrowded port of Aqaba.

On the reported Israeli effort to facilitate the transport of Egyptians from Jordan to Egypt by opening the Israeli port of Eilat, Egyptian embassy sources said they did not receive such an offer from the Israeli government officially.

Mosques, camps to put up transient people

AMMAN (J.T.) — In line with government policy of providing assistance and facilities to the Arab and non-Arab nationals leaving Iraq and Kuwait via Jordan, mosques in different areas have been opened to accommodate evacuees until transport arrangements have been found for them to leave for home.

The announcement was made by Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Ali Al Faqr who said that most of those residing at the mosques are Yemenis, Sudanese and Egyptians. They are mostly workers who had fled the Gulf zone for Jordan awaiting arrangements for their transportation home.

"The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs has been providing the evacuees with light meals and has now opened the pilgrims' camping sites at Ruseifa and Maan to put them up for the time being," said Faqr.

Jordan has other camping facilities at Ramtha for the pilgrims coming from Turkey and Syria heading for the holy places, and at Ghor Nimrein in the Jordan Valley region for Palestinian pilgrims performing the annual pilgrimage but the minister did not say whether these too were open for the evacuees.

He announced the formation of a standing relief committee to take charge of the accommodation issue in view of the huge crowds of the evacuees and to offer them basic humanitarian assistance.

Faqr announced also that the Ministry of Industry and Trade has given its consent to open the Amman International Fair Centre near Mary Al Hassan to put up other Arab and foreign evacuees who arrive in Jordan from Iraq and Kuwait.

He said that the centre contained all sanitary facilities and other basic services.

Faqr said that the government was trying to coordinate these services and accommodation with the Arab and Islamic countries whose nationals have been affected by the crisis and arrived in Jordan on their way home.

Meanwhile, the Hashemite Charitable Organisation announced Wednesday that it was joining efforts exerted by the Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund (QAF) in helping the evacuees.

Dr. Abdul Salam Al Abbadi, the organisation's secretary-general said that meetings had been held, in conjunction with

QAF, and arrangements had been made to put up evacuees at Al Azraq centre north east of Amman and the Amman International Fair Centre.

The organisation and QAF, he said, have also contacted the United Nations Development Programme for help and appealed to various public and private organisations to give contributions and donations for this humanitarian cause.

In another development, in immediate response to an appeal by the government of Jordan, UNICEF Executive Director James P. Grant has authorised the UNICEF Regional Office in Amman to extend emergency relief assistance to Jordan to help meet the needs of thousands of transient people of all nationalities, entering Jordan from Iraq and Kuwait as a result of the Gulf crisis.

UNICEF support will be targeted primarily towards the needs of mothers and children. The Jordan government and UNICEF are presently identifying urgent requirements of people awaiting repatriation to their home countries.

Assistance will include essential drugs, milk and other basic foodstuffs and shelter needs.

Jordan marks Queen's birthday

AMMAN (J.T.) — Thursday, August 23, marks the birthday of Her Majesty Queen Noor.

For over twelve years, Queen Noor dedicated her efforts towards the improvement of health care, women's development, social welfare, education and culture, and the protection of the environment.

In response to the economic situation in the country, the Queen has concentrated during the past year, through the Noor Al Hussein Foundation, on assisting families to raise their standard of living and to achieve self-sufficiency by providing women, in particular, with training and work opportunities, thus contributing to the improvement of the national economy.

A special focus has also been placed on Jordan's rural areas and foundation projects were initiated to allow rural communities to achieve self-reliance and a



better quality of life.

Lately, Queen Noor has directed the foundation to initiate new programmes to meet the recent challenges resulting from the current circumstances in the area.

Martyrs' children given priority in employment

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government has decided to give priority in employment to citizens who were dismissed from their jobs on political grounds. Many of these have already been reinstated, especially in the Ministry of Education and schools.

According to Ministry of Awqaf officials, the new arrangement of giving priority to martyrs' children in employment has been prompted by the current situation in the region.

Asked by the Jordan Times for details, the minister of awqaf said that he did not have any figures but that martyrs' children do exist and have already applied to the Civil Service Commission (CSC) for jobs in government departments.

"The CSC, which normally processes applications for jobs in government offices, normally follows a procedure of giving preference in appointment to those applying first," the minister said. He said he had to approach the prime minister in order to introduce this amendment that gives priority to martyrs' children.

JOB OPPORTUNITY

The United Nations Development Programme would like to appoint an economic researcher on a project dealing with development planning and policy analysis. Applicants should have a Master's degree in economics and should be familiar with quantitative techniques in economics and capable of handling large sets of data and various statistical software packages. They should also have a good command of English.

Remuneration will depend on qualifications and experience. Interested candidates should apply in person to the: Planning and Research Department at the Ministry of Planning.

Jordanian, Algerian deputies support Iraq Deputies to go to Iran, Turkey to discuss Gulf developments

AMMAN (J.T.) — An Algerian parliamentary delegation on a tour of the Arab countries to discuss the Gulf crisis Wednesday wound up a three-day visit to Jordan and left for Damascus for talks with members of the Syrian People's Assembly.

Upon the conclusion of their talks with Jordanian parliamentarians the two sides issued a statement voicing total support for Iraq by the people of Jordan and Algeria in the struggle against the presence of foreign troops on Arab land.

Following the delegation's departure a standing committee, formed by the Lower House of Parliament to deal with the crisis, held a meeting under the chairmanship of House Speaker Suleiman Arar. During the meeting two delegations were formed to

visit Iran and Turkey to discuss with parliament members in the two countries issues related to developments in the Gulf region.

According to a statement after the meeting, the delegation to go to Iran will group Yousef Al Azam, Ahmad Inash and Atef Butush as well as Dr. Isbah Al Farhan from the Upper House of Parliament.

The delegation going to Turkey, the statement said, groups Taher Al Masri, Abdullah Ensoor, Abdullah Akayleh and Ahmad Kofahi.

The statement did not say when the visits will take place but noted that the committee will continue its meetings on a daily basis and report to Parliament on the latest situation and advice on steps to be taken in the light of developments.

Meanwhile several Parliament members Wednesday appealed to members of the public to help bolster Jordan's potentials by all available means and to strengthen the internal front.

In their appeal, made through the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, the deputies urged the public to refrain from purchasing unnecessary commodities and luxuries and adapt to austerity measures and war economy.

The deputies appealed to the members of the public to offer volunteer work wherever this is necessary.

Mahmoud Hweimel, Mohammad Tarawneh, Fakri Kavar and Mohammad Al Mufar criticised hoarders of food supplies and said that Jordanians should adapt to austerity measures and spend less.

Tens of thousands join people's army

By Marianne M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Since the intervention of non-Arab countries in the Gulf crisis three weeks ago tens of thousands of people have signed up to join a "people's army" to help the peoples of Iraq and Kuwait defend themselves against outside aggression, according to organisers of the Jordanian Committee for Support of the People of Iraq and Kuwait.

"Jordanians have signed up as individuals or in groups. Some people signed up individually or as families and tribes to defend the Arab homeland wherever it is threatened by outsiders," said Tayseer Homsi, chairman of the support committee.

Homsi and other members of the steering committee said that the volunteers originally signed up to fight alongside Iraqi forces

against foreign intervention.

"At this point we understand that may no longer be necessary. The Iraqis have told us they do not foresee needing volunteers," said one of the organisers. "The Iraqis are urging volunteers to stay in Jordan, to protect the Kingdom against any threats," he added.

Not ruling out the possibility of sending volunteers to Iraq "in case they are needed," Mohammad Rashdan, secretary-general of the committee said that the "volunteer campaign has expanded tremendously, so much so that we have lost count. We have several registration centres in each municipality and the numbers are in the tens of thousands but we don't want to exaggerate and give an exact number at this point."

Support committee officials in the Salt and Zarqa governorates have each reportedly registered volunteers in tens of thousands. Homsi, who heads the main Amman branch of the committee, says that along with Jordanians, Yemenis, Egyptians, Syrians and registered Palestine refugees have signed up for the people's army.

"University students, doctors, pharmacists and other professionals are still signing up 'en masse'," Homsi said. "People are very enthusiastic about helping out," he added.

Rashdan pointed out that Jordan may need the volunteers more than anyone else if a military conflict breaks out in the region. "Don't forget we are in the front line with Israel," he said.

Civil Defence Department announces programme

AMMAN (Petra) — The Civil Defence Department (CDD) announced Wednesday that it would soon embark on a programme designed to spread awareness among members of the public on ways to deal with the effects of chemical weapons and said that all the previous leaflets and pamphlets distributed in the country contained inaccurate information and were not issued by the civil defence authorities.

The announcement was made by Maj. Gen. Afif Al Ghour the CDD director, who also cautioned the public against listening to or repeating harmful rumours because "they are normally emitted by enemy media to the Arab Nation."

"The awareness programme will be carried out through the press and radio and television, and will be repeated regularly," Ghour said.

Referring to a chemical bomb, Ghour said that such a bomb is different from a normal shell in that it gives off subsonic sound upon exploding, unlike the ordinary shell. "Soon gas starts being emitted from the explosion site, causing tree leaves to fall and spots of an unusual type of oil appear on the ground, insects die

instantly and humans begin have a feeling of nausea and vomiting," he said.

Ghour said that citizens could deal with the effects of such an explosion by firmly closing doors and windows to stop any penetration of chemical material indoors, covering their faces and bodies with heavy cloth and using wet towels over the mouth and nose. He said that citizens in the cars should turn off the engine after pulling on the right side of the road, and breathe slowly.

People in the street should move against the wind and try to find the nearest place for hiding.

According to Ghour, CDD can

not provide all citizens with protective gas masks in view of the heavy cost, but people at home can improvise and use whatever materials they have at hand to provide protection to their bodies.

"Wearing heavy clothes, gloves and leather coverings for instance is one of the best means to prevent chemical materials from reaching the body," Ghour said.

He said that protection through gas masks and clothes can not be ensured for a long time. These have to be taken off and washed thoroughly and the body should be washed with soap and water.

Saudis deny Israeli presence on territory

AMMAN (J.T.) — Saudi Arabia Wednesday denied the presence of any Israeli planes or troops on its territory and described reports in the Jordanian media to this effect as totally groundless.

The denial, which came in a memorandum sent to the Foreign Ministry in Amman by the Saudi Arabian Embassy here, said that the Jordanian press had pub-

lished reports received from foreign agencies about the presence of Israeli planes and troops on Saudi Arabian soil.

This report is fabricated and untrue in whole and in part," said the embassy in its memorandum to the ministry.

It urged the media to try to be accurate in reporting news about the situation in the Gulf.

Jordanians offer assistance to Yemenis arriving from Kuwait

By Marianne M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan's mosques and unions' offices threw their doors wide open this week to thousands of Yemenis who left Kuwait as a result of increasing fear of military confrontation taking place in the Gulf.

An estimated 800 Yemenis entered the Kingdom at the Jordanian-Iraqi border in the last three days. Since neither land nor ferry transport from Jordan to Yemen is possible at the moment, Yemenis, Yemen's official airline, is sending up to five passenger planes per day to carry Yemeni nationals and their belongings back home. There is only one scheduled flight per week so the airline has had make great efforts to make as many planes as possible available to those transiting in Jordan.

The Yemeni government is covering all transportation costs, one Yemeni official said Wednesday.

Jordanians donated foodstuffs such as milk, yoghurt, eggs, bread, cheese and rice as well as large quantities of sanitary materials to the transiting Yemenis who slept in crowded union halls and mosques.

Jordanian volunteers said many Yemenis shied from taking donations. They felt ashamed to take what they saw as handouts and they kept insisting that they were not refugees, so we told them that everybody was liable to face difficult circumstances and that there was nothing undignified about accepting food in time of need," said one volunteer.

About 20,000 Yemenis in Kuwait were working as traders, government employees and labourers. For most of them there was no work to go back to because, as some of them said, life had come to a virtual standstill since the Aug. 2 takeover of Kuwait by Iraq.

"Two things made us leave Kuwait: one is what seems to be the increasing possibility of a military attack from the Americans," said one Yemeni student who is being housed in the Professional Association Complex in Smeisani before he finds a plane to take him home. "The other is that it looks as if Kuwait may never be the same again in terms of work possibilities."

Some Yemenis complained that the situation in Kuwait was increasingly becoming tense. "There is some resentment on the part of Kuwaitis towards those Arabs who are now supporting Iraq because of the American intervention. Kuwaitis are especially angry at the Palestinians. They have written violent hate messages on the walls," said one Yemeni who previously had worked as a government employee in Kuwait.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Cabinet appoints director

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet Wednesday approved the appointment of Sa'eed Hyassat as director of the Jordanian companies at the Ministry of Industry and Trade.

INRCS to aid Arab evacuees

AMMAN (Petra) — The central executive committee of the Jordanian National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) decided to provide assistance to Arab nationals coming to Jordan from Iraq and Kuwait through Al Rawehed border post and to operate a centre in cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) at the border post as of Friday to provide medical care and first aid assistance to passengers. The JNRCS Deputy Director-General Mohammad Al Hadid and the head of the ICRC delegation in Jordan Werner Kasper visited Al Rawehed area Wednesday to inspect the proposed centre's site.

CDD starts courses in Zarqa

ZARQA (Petra) — The Civil Defence Department (CDD) opened Wednesday 15 extensive courses on civil defence works in different areas in Zarqa Governorate. Taking part in the courses are 300 men and women. CDD sources said other courses would be opened next Thursday. The sources added that CDD was planning to train about 3,000 citizens in the first month of training on the civil defence works.

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THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY SCHOOL THE BRITISH CURRICULUM SCHOOL IN AMMAN Is now open for registrations for the September Term 1990

AGE RANGE:

Boys and Girls aged 3 years to 14 years. This includes a Nursery class where the children follow a carefully thought out and planned curriculum which will give them the basic skills and concepts necessary to begin formal schooling the following year.

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION:

English

PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE OF ENGLISH REQUIRED:

None

OTHER LANGUAGES OFFERED:

Arabic and French

NATIONALITIES ACCEPTED:

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TEACHING STAFF:

All U.K. qualified and experienced within their speciality.

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Specialist teachers ensure that non-English speakers make very rapid progress.

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The aim is to incorporate the best traditions of the British educational system with the needs of an international community.

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Buses are available to cover principal residential areas

ENQUIRIES:

The School is presently accepting registrations for the September term. The school will also be open for registrations every Monday in July and August between the hours of 9.00 and 12.00 noon. The new term begins on Sunday 9th September.

P.O. Box 2002

Tel: 841070

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

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Opportunity presents itself; let's take it

THERE exists a historic opportunity, as never before, for both Arabs and the Western World, particularly the U.S., to start a new chapter in their relations. The current crisis in the Gulf has stretched the strained relations between the two worlds to the limit. Both nations are for the moment poised for a showdown. The result of that would be catastrophic in its immediate and long-term repercussions.

The divide that for decades strained Arab-American relations was largely and essentially due to the Arab-Israeli conflict, a conflict that both sides had inherited from colonial Britain. The current crisis is due in no small measure to that conflict and its dimensions, such as Israeli and Jewish influence on the Western World's media and decision-makers. But, as His Majesty King Hussein pointed out yesterday, the crisis has also been a function of the perceived "threat" to Western interests by a national Arab awakening, and of the realities of the post cold war era as well as some Arabs' misreading of the keys to a Gulf solution.

In any case, the Arab people hold no enmity or hatred for Americans or Europeans. On the contrary most Arabs admire these peoples' experiences, culture and achievements. Millions of Arabs have become Americans and many more would like to make it to the "land of the free," not least among them true Arab nationalists and patriots. We share many values, and are all interested in building a better future and lasting peace for our next generations.

It is understandable that so many years of mistrust would build into near confrontation. But the opportunity that exists now must not be made to pass. Instead of escalating tension into violence and hostility, there ought to be dialogue and a fusion of productive ideas and aspirations. The world can no more be shaped by armies and navies, but by fresh vision and cool heads.

The Arabs, at least those who are rallying behind Iraq, are holding the olive branch. America in its might should opt for reconciliation. The whole world is being held ransom to the current crisis. Everyone realises that a confrontation at the moment would lead to untold misery and destruction. The world can easily be spared the agony of the aftermath of such an explosion.

The Arab side has so far shown its desire to end the conflict peacefully. Western nations, Iraq explained, are being denied exit only to dissuade the West from starting a war. Iraq has so far offered a number of initiatives that can be negotiated and built on for a peaceful solution, including one proposal that calls for addressing all the conflicts of the region, so that peace could become universal.

America can choose to continue to shun all peace bids and opt for confrontation. At the end, however, it will only harvest the enmity of a whole nation. But America can also opt for talks and negotiations. If it did, it will prove to the Arabs that it has no hostile intentions. Dialogue between the two nations can only prove to be in the interest of everybody and humanity as a whole.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A Western aggression on Iraq is bound to draw all the Arabs and Muslims to it, and is no doubt going to be long and devastating for every party involved in the Gulf crisis, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Wednesday. Millions of Arabs and Muslims will find themselves forced to defend their religion, their heritage and their existence in the face of the Western ambitious designs and hatred should a conflict start in the region, the paper said. The dark ages are over and the present age is one of enlightenment for the Arabs who are bent on defending their soil and their rights and interests; and nothing can stop the Arabs from liberating themselves from foreign domination, the paper continued. It said that the Western nations are ignoring the extended Iraqi hand of peace and are instead, escalating the tensions and increasing the hatred for the Arabs and Muslims while the U.S. president is massing his naval forces and deploying his troops and other mercenary soldiers to fight a war that would have grave consequences on the American people. The mercenaries found with the American forces in Arabia, are merely fighting to receive pay and not to defend values and human principles; and for this reason this U.S.-Zionist alliance is bound to face ignominious defeat, said the paper. Since Iraq is fighting against the evil doers, the paper said, it is bound to be backed by all Arab masses from the Gulf region to the Atlantic Ocean.

By rejecting the latest Iraqi offer for peace the United States has now closed all doors for any negotiations to reach a settlement for the Gulf crisis, said Al Dustur Arabic daily. The rejection has also blocked the diplomats' efforts to find an end to the deadlock over the question of foreign nationals and over the deescalation of tension; and paved the way for war, said the paper. This American rejection of peace, the paper continued, clearly manifests Washington's intentions which aim at perpetuating its occupation of the Gulf regions which contain oil wealth; because without any crisis, there can be no justification for the presence of American forces in the Arabian peninsula. This Western crusade is different from that launched on the Arabs in the middle ages because this time it is not aimed at occupying holy places, but rather the oil wealth which is a source of energy for the colonial war machine, the paper added. The war option is very costly for the United States and very dangerous for all parties involved in the crisis, especially the U.S. interests which could be wiped out in any future conflict, the paper said.

Sawt Al Shash expressed belief that the Arab will can still open the way for negotiations to end the crisis in the Gulf despite the escalation of tension. The paper noted that the United States was continuing to escalate the tension and to pave the ground for conflict believing that its wide hostile campaign on Iraq would deceive the Arab masses and set them against the Iraqi people.

Beginnings of U.S. opposition to American Gulf involvement

By Deborah Zabarenko
Reuters

WASHINGTON — The first blurb of patriotic support for U.S. involvement in the Gulf crisis has started to fade, with some Americans protesting against sending troops to the region and others taking aim at a vacationing George Bush.

While media polls identify a boost to President Bush's popularity after deciding to move troops to the Gulf, one poll released this week showed one American in six disapproves of the way Bush has handled the crisis.

An NBC/Wall Street Journal poll of 805 registered voters showed 72 per cent approved of the president's actions and 16 per cent were against.

But the poll also suggested most Americans were not inclined favour a war with Iraq over economic concerns such as oil imports, with only 27 per cent wanting U.S. military action if the price of petrol rose above two dollars a gallon.

Dependence on foreign oil was the focus of a protest in Eugene, Oregon, where about 100 people gathered outside the lane county courthouse on Sunday carrying signs saying "drop oil usage, not bombs," "peace, not oil" and "life is more precious than oil."

Rally organiser Randy Prince said "the only reason the U.S. military finds it necessary to defend our interests there (the Gulf region) is to defend our need for oil."

Nehrkans. for peace, a

grass-roots group claiming over 1,500 members, plans a protest on Saturday outside the Omaha hall of justice.

"We're concerned that military solutions are what we look to first, without considering other options," said Robin Carter, one of the Nebraska group's leaders. "We're concerned that we did not intervene in other cases where Iran and Iraq committed atrocities."

Carter also suggested the Gulf crisis was timed to boost calls for greater military spending.

Such protests could indicate a public tendency to lose enthusiasm for military operations the longer they linger. "Time is not on our side," former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger wrote in newspaper

column at the weekend. "American staying power in the face of public, regional and allied pressures is usually inversely proportional to the scale of our deployment," wrote Kissinger, who played a key in Washington during the Vietnam war.

The Boston Globe agreed that the U.S. mood may turn if the Gulf conflict turns into a long haul.

"Poised against the short-term economic and political benefits of protecting precious oil supplies and neutralising an aggressive foreign leader are deeper and longer-lasting human, economic and political costs at home," the Globe's Chris Black wrote. "And one sobering question: If this operation turns into a shooting

war, will operation desert shield be worth the price?" Arab-Americans are deeply divided on the possibility of U.S. military action in the Gulf, said Jim Zogby, Executive Director of the Washington-based Arab-American Institute.

A poll of Arab-American leaders taken by the institute found overwhelming condemnation for the actions of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, but a 50-50 split on whether U.S. troops should be in Saudi Arabia, Zogby told Reuters. "There's fear of a backlash here, fear of war between Americans and Arabs and what it will mean to our people," Zogby said.

Bush's decision not to cancel his summer holiday to deal with the crisis has drawn fire

from editorial critics. "President Bush need not allow himself to become consumed by the Iraqi situation, as deadly as it is... but he should return to Washington," the Dallas Morning News said.

Whatever domestic criticism Bush may face for his actions, the troops he is sending to the Gulf enjoy strong support.

Hundreds of Americans turned out last week to cheer on troops from the 101st Airborne Division as they travelled in convoy from Fort Campbell, Kentucky, to Jacksonville, Florida to leave for the Gulf.

In Chattanooga, Tennessee, flags and signs saying "we love you" and "come back" cheered departing troops, scenes repeated in many towns along the route.

Communists still thriving in East German economy

By Andrew Gumbel
Reuters

EAST BERLIN — The former Communists who ruled East Germany for 40 years still dominate the country's ailing economy and look like staying there despite a commitment to Western-style market reforms.

Politicians, economists and grass-roots activists say last year's overthrow of East Germany's Communist elite and ensuing free elections have failed to dislodge many senior former party hands from key positions in industry and state administration.

They say former agents of the disbanded Stasi security police, far from being first on the dole, have jumped to the top of the job queue thanks to friends in high places.

"There have been a few cosmetic changes at the very top of companies, but most senior functionaries are the same as before," said Hans Schwenke of the New Forum movement which headed last year's popular uprising against Communist rule.

"Nothing has changed. They may have swapped party of their job, but the same old... people are in charge. It's disgusting," said an official in the East Berlin city council.

Press and politicians in West Germany have begun to sit up and take notice, further fuelling a row between Bonn and East Berlin over management of the east's finances.

One example much picked on is the Treuhandanstalt, the trustee agency responsible for privatising East Germany's 8,000 state firms and a lynchpin in the country's transition from a centralised to a market economy.

Although the agency's top two officials are West German Social Democrats, the rest of the board includes two former ministers who served ousted Communist leader Erich Honecker, a former Communist mayor of East Berlin, two of his councillors and a number of other former city officials.

"No wonder the Treuhandanstalt is yet to show any economic successes," the populist West German Bild newspaper said in a campaign for Bonn to take total control of the East German economy.

Local and regional politicians say former Communists also dominate the two main East German state retail groups, Ho and Konsum, which still control 80 per cent of grocery and household trade.

The groups were widely blamed for fixing excessively high prices after German economic

union on July 1, leading to a virtual Western monopoly of shop shelf space and bringing domestic agriculture to the brink of ruin.

Perhaps most controversial is the fate of the Stasi's 85,000 former agents, who bugged and snooped on East Germans for 40 years and kept a close eye on the country's prestige companies which earned precious hard currency through exports.

Selling to the west may no longer be an issue of state security, but most of the former Stasi men have stayed in their posts in various companies, according to New Forum.

"The government has made no serious effort to root out former agents, not even from the armed forces, because they are in posts they consider too important to tamper with," Schwenke told Reuters.

The influence of the Stasi also reaches into political circles. Citizens groups estimate about 10 per cent of deputies in the new democratic parliament were once Stasi informers.

A special parliamentary commission is investigating the allegations but has yet to make any report.

Interior Minister Peter-Michael Diestel, arguing the Stasi could pose a terrorist threat if left

to its own devices, has hired thousands of former employees in his ministry and helped others find jobs elsewhere.

"We need these people to rebuild our society," Diestel said in a recent television interview.

The government's policies have prompted outrage and calls for his resignation. For many, it is an unsavoury repeat of what happened in West Germany after World War II.

The allies who controlled the defeated country never properly eradicated former Nazis from some high industrial posts.

The East German government argues that it would take too long to weed out undesirable and that rapid economic deterioration calls for the best people available regardless of background.

But many say the government could have been more discerning if the pace of German unification had not been so frantic.

"It's true you can't put everyone in the same boat. Not everyone who was a party member was bad," said former Economics Minister and reform Communist Christa Luft.

"But with a few more months, we could have shaken out the old industrial bosses and installed people committed to change who knew what they were doing."

World Bank returns to battle against growing world population

By Alver Carlson

Reuters

WASHINGTON — The World Bank is renewing its public criticism of population growth as a cause of poverty and environmental destruction after a decade of treading softly on the controversial issue.

Bank President Barber Conable has been making the case both publicly and privately that curbing population growth is a basic ingredient of economic development and a major goal of bank activity.

"The policy is coming from the top," said one bank official.

The World Bank expects the world's population to reach 6.3 billion by the end of this century, up from 5.3 billion currently. Other estimates are even higher.

Increasing population adds new problems to the bank's role as a development institution. Its goal of reducing poverty and improving economic growth is undercut by the relentless march of new mouths to feed and jobs to provide.

In a recent world development report, the bank said that more than one billion people — at least one quarter of the global population — live on less than \$370 a year.

In the past, many bank officials have been wary of advocating population control. The United States, the bank's biggest member, took the position under the administration of President Ronald Reagan that family planning should not be supported by government or multinational assistance.

The Reagan administration seemed to equate family planning with abortion and coercive measures to slow the birth rate.

President George Bush, while agreeing with this approach, has been less strident on the issue as it applies to the World Bank.

Bank officials familiar with the population approach at the lending agency say Conable has decided to fill this leadership vacuum, convinced the bank should press for family planning and take a leading role in the population issue.

"The United States used to be the leader in this area, but under Reagan it went in the opposite direction," says Fred Sai, a former senior population adviser at the World Bank.

The new emphasis by Conable is being backed by lending. Bank loans for population health and nutrition stood at \$54.1 million in the 1987 fiscal year, or 0.3 per cent of total lending. By 1988, the figure was 304 million, or 1.6 per cent, and last year it was 623 million, or 2.9 per cent. The figure was \$33.4 million for the fiscal year ended June 30.

The bank estimates that one-fourth of these amounts are earmarked strictly for population issues and officials believe that loan growth in the sector will continue.

"Real momentum is building within the population field at the bank that portends big increases in the years ahead," says Steven Sinding, recently named senior population adviser at the bank.

The United Nations Population Fund, which tracks population levels, said that in 1984 it seemed

likely that the total would stabilise at 10.2 billion people towards the end of the next century.

New figures, however, indicate that stabilisation will occur at closer to 11 billion than 10 billion.

The U.N. group says the population is increasing by three people every second, about a quarter of a million every day.

"Between 90 and 100 million people — roughly equivalent to the population of Eastern Europe or Central America — will be added every year during the 1990s; a billion people — a whole extra China — over the next decade," the fund says.

Even some of these estimates may be optimistic. The World Resources Institute, an environmental group, believes that without an heroic effort population levels will continue to rise to about 14 billion.

The greatest increases will be occurring in regions and countries that can least afford them. Nigeria, for instance, could grow from 30 million people in 1950 to 300 million in 2020 — a 10-fold increase in just one lifespan.

Huge wave of evacuees poses enormous difficulties

(Continued from page 1)

"We are doing all we can but we may have to slow down the movement of people coming unless we can speed up the movement of people leaving," he said. "We are doing our best to provide food, shelter and medical facilities."

Earlier Wednesday, border officials reported that some form of order had been restored after chaos hit the Al Ruweished post with an average daily flow of 12,000 people from across the frontier with Iraq earlier this week.

"Despite the fact that we can only comfortably cope with about 5,000 people, we have managed to streamline the process," said a border official. "Today (Wednesday) we expect about 8,000 people to cross and this figure will remain the same for a couple of days more," he told the Jordan Times Wednesday evening.

The official, who preferred anonymity, confirmed that the Iraqi authorities had "applied a brake" on the number of Egyptians crossing the border from the Babia point on the Iraqi side and "this has relieved us a lot."

"This will help us clear the backlog at Aqaba, where at least 15,000

are waiting to take the ferry home," said the official. The Egyptians waiting at Aqaba include many who arrived from Saudi Arabia after a cross-border trip from Kuwait, with many of them driving their own cars.

Egyptian nationals — estimated at 1.6 million in Iraq and 150,000 in Kuwait — have accounted for over 75 per cent of arrivals from Iraq and Kuwait in a frenzied dash across the border, particularly after political differences emerged between the Baghdad and Cairo governments over Iraq's takeover of Kuwait and the deployment of international forces in Saudi Arabia.

The exodus continued despite assurances by Iraqi leaders that Egyptian nationals would not be mistreated and a call by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to his countrymen to deal with Egyptians as brothers.

The border official could not immediately provide any figure for the number of Egyptians crossing the post Wednesday, but said it would account for less than 35 per cent of the total.

Among those crossing Wednesday was a group of 1,200, representing the largest number of Indians to cross since the Iraqi-Jordanian border was opened on

Aug. 7, five days after Iraq took over Kuwait.

Air India has introduced daily emergency flights of Boeing 747s, which can carry up to 375 passengers. With Wednesday's arrivals, the total number of Indians waiting to fly home rose to 2,000, and an Air India official said he was planning to introduce two daily flights from Thursday if the level of daily arrivals warranted it.

At least 7,000 Indians are waiting in Baghdad for clearance formalities and travel arrangements, informed sources said.

Iraqi Airways continued to operate daily flights to Amman, and most of Wednesday's arrivals were Iraqi and other Arabs and Asians apart from 14 Scandinavians.

Two former American congressmen and five Australian diplomats were among the arrivals aboard Tuesday's Iraqi Airways flight. Thomas Kindness (Republican - Hamilton), Ohio and George Hansen (Republican - Idaho), who flew into Iraq for a "fact-finding" mission last week. The Associated Press quoted Kindness as saying that both he and Hansen worked for a "free foundation engaged in education and public matter in the United States." No detail was available on the nature of their "fact-finding mission."

The two former congressmen were the first Americans of non-Arab, non-Asian or non-African origin to be permitted to leave after Iraq said it would hold Westerners as a possible deterrent against any attack from the American-led forces assembled in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf.

Eighty United Nations officials and family members also arrived aboard the Iraqi Airways flight, and the U.N. said in New York that they were staff of the Baghdad-based Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia.

Among those arriving Tuesday and Wednesday across the border were 53 American nationals, including 13 members and dependents of the American embassies in Iraq and Kuwait. Other U.S. passport holders were mostly of Arab origin.

Almost every hotel in Amman and its suburbs are reporting full occupancy with the influx of Asians and others waiting for government-arranged flights home. In some cases, the wait is for 48 hours while it is as much as five days for others.

According to a statement issued by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), 15,000 evacuees from Iraq and Kuwait have left via Jordanian airports since Aug. 2.

LETTERS

View from this side

THE following is an abridged text of a letter which the writer telefaxed to her father MR. L.J. Boote, in England Sunday, after she heard he was cancelling his visit here because of the situation in the Gulf.

To the Editor,

I am sure you are all terribly worried about the situation in the Gulf, but as I explained earlier, we in Jordan have nothing to worry about despite what you read in the national papers and see and hear on TV and radio. It is never anything like what you are led to believe. In one sense I totally understand that you felt it necessary to cancel your trip to Jordan, but on the other, Nabil and I were disappointed that you could not trust our judgement of the situation. I attach to this letter an article from the Jordan Times written by a good friend of ours who is a journalist and political analyst and has often spoken on the BBC World Service. I hope it throws some light on the situation over here. The real problem actually that a few members of the British press are facing here in Jordan is that they are totally bored, because nothing is happening, and so to keep their editors happy they are writing a load of fiction — misconceived but totally acceptable to the British masses who only want to hear the worst when it comes to the Arab nation. I suggest that you do some reading about recent Arab history, particularly that concerning Kuwait which in the year 1928 was part of the southern Iraqi city Basra, and was turned into "Kuwait" by the British. The British have a lot to answer for in this part of the world, and so has the world community. If you consider the chain of events that is taking place at this moment in the name of the U.N. and others, you will see for yourself the double standards and hypocrisy carried out by them all, with the USA at the top of the list. In the words of Bush, "acquisition of territory by force is totally unacceptable" and within a week the USA had moved troops and its military machine into the Gulf under the pretext of protecting Saudi Arabia. What the West has failed to comprehend in all of this is that Israel marched into Palestine, South Lebanon and the Syrian Golan Heights exactly 23 years ago and despite U.N. resolutions condemning it and asking Israel to withdraw from these territories, it is still there today practically legitimised by the world community. Yet the world community is ready to start full scale war to restore Kuwait to the ousted Kuwaiti regime regardless of the cost. The only reason the world community is acting together on this issue is not to protect Saudi Arabia, American and foreign lives, and all the rest of it, but to protect their own self interests i.e. "oil". We might respect them more if they were honest... so that's politics for you and dirty it is indeed.

As for us, yes we still have electricity (my typewriter is electric) and yes there is still food on the shelves, and no, the Jordanians are not armed with knives and rampaging the streets of the country. But understandably the Jordanians are very angry by American and British reactions to this inter-Arab dispute.

I suppose you've guessed on whose side I'm on...!!!! Apart from anything else the atmosphere is electric and exciting. It would have been very interesting for you to have been a part of it and to see for yourself how wrong the British press has been on this one.

One the family front, the kids are very healthy, fun loving, noisy, boisterous and adorable and keeping us both on our toes. Nabil is working very hard on the hotel and restaurant project. Despite the current situation, the restaurant is doing very well. Some of the clients are foreign journalists who are covering the crisis and are staying at the large hotel around the corner from us, (ranging from British to Italians to Icelanders). So it gives Nabil a very good opportunity to have friendly and lively discussions on the various issues at stake. It would seem that Nabil was even quoted on a BBC news despatch and a journalist who spoke with him even admitted that he has started to see things differently since that discussion. So you see some good can come out of all this.

Well dad, that's about it for now, as you can see we are all very well and not in the least worried. I certainly have no intention of leaving Jordan at the moment. By the way, please would you distribute this article to friends and colleagues who need to be enlightened about the situation in the Gulf from a Jordanian viewpoint — I would be very grateful. Also please fax British press reports (bad and good) I like to read what the other side says.

Take care of yourself and start saving for a trip out here next year.

Jacky Sawalha
Amman

'Pakistan opposes use of force'

(Continued from page 1)

Pakistan has added, "respects all relevant resolutions that have been passed in the Security Council and in the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) foreign ministers."

"While the situation is grim," he added, "it is our belief that it is not without hope and through a policy of restraint and creative diplomacy, the slide towards an armed conflict can yet be avoided and the way could be paved for a peaceful settlement."

He said Pakistan will spare no

effort to make its due contribution in promoting peace and stability in the region.

Yaqub Khan also voiced his country's appreciation to Jordan for its assistance to Pakistani nationals fleeing Iraq and Kuwait via Jordan.

Before the meeting with the King in the presence of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Yaqub Khan met with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasbi for an exchange of views on the latest developments in the Gulf.

Drive carefully!
Traffic can be hazardous

Jordan Times WEEKENDER

Published Every Thursday

Aug. 23, 1990 A

Queen of mystery celebrated

By Robert Shelton

LONDON — With some 2 billion books published worldwide, half of them translations from English, Agatha Christie has enthralled generations of readers at the four corners of the earth. This year will mark the 100th anniversary of the birth of the world's most loved mystery writer, who was born on Sept. 15, 1890.

Hardly a day goes by when one of her tales is not seen on stage, on television or on movie screens, for she has captured popular imagination worldwide. Few would dispute her crown as the "Queen of Mystery."

Her most popular sleuths are the doughty Belgian detective with the inquisitive manner and the twitchy moustache, Hercule Poirot, and the amiable busy body, Miss Marple — both household names.

Agatha Christie died in 1976... of natural causes. But she was an elusive character, and her life and person remain so shrouded in mystery that we must look deeper into what might be called "The Strange case of Agatha Christie."

Why did she so baffle her friends and second husband with her detachment? How could a genteel lady from Britain's west country preoccupy herself so with murder? What led to her own strange disappearance a few years after her first marriage to Archie Christie?

Agatha Mary Clarissa Miller Christie Mallowan was born at Ashfield, near the seaside resort of Torquay, in Devon. Her parents were Frederick Alvah Miller, a wealthy American expatriate, who married an Englishwoman, Clarissa Boehmer. Agatha was educated by her parents, at home, where she was also influenced by her two grandmothers, her nursemaid, her older sister Margaret and her brother, Louis (Moody) Miller.

She met and soon married

Archibald Christie, a dashing captain in the Royal Flying Corps in 1913. A while after the birth of their daughter Rosalind, Christie dashed off with a Miss Nancy Neele. When he disappeared, and so did Agatha, her car was found abandoned the next day and there was speculation that she was dead. But nine days later, she turned up at a hotel in Harrogate in Yorkshire, miles away from home, registered under a fake name.

She claimed she had lost her memory. Others believe it was her way of showing how much her husband's affair was hurting her. (A film of this episode of her life was made, starring Vanessa Redgrave and Dustin Hoffman).

Agatha, the family's youngest child, took to writing tales and fantasies quite early. She wrote her first mystery novel, *The Mysterious Affair at Styles*, in 1916. She was 26. It was published four years later, the first of an astonishingly prolific production. For the next 55 years, she wrote prodigiously, publishing 78 crime novels, 20 plays (including seven adaptations), four factual books and 150 short stories. She also wrote six romantic novels under the non-de-plume, Mary Westmascott.

The Christies divorced in 1928. Two years later she met and soon married a man 14 years her senior, archaeologist Max (later) Lord Mallowan. They divided their time between several homes in England and archaeological expeditions to the Middle East. For 10 years, they travelled to the region, which became the setting for such favourites as *Death on the Nile* and other of Christie's popular stories. During World War II, Mallowan served as an intelligence officer in North Africa while she worked as a medical volunteer, as she had done in World War I.

Christie's second career

In the 1950s her second career as a playwright reached

its peak with productions of *The Mousetrap* and *Witness for the Prosecution*. First staged in 1952, *The Mousetrap* is the world's longest-running play. It is still showing with a cast that changes every year.

Christie was honoured for her work: she was made Commander of the British Empire (CBE) in 1956, and Dame of the British Empire in 1971. She died in Berkshire on Jan. 12, 1976 and lies buried in a nearby churchyard. Her last novel, *Sleeping Murder*, was published after her death.

To this day, her stories remain hugely popular with vast numbers of people from many different cultural backgrounds. Some argue that the reason her writing is so successful is because it touches on a universal theme: the duel between good and evil. This is cast in a series of puzzles, spiced with endless misleading red herrings which nag at our own ability to sort out truth from illusion.

In his book about Christie entitled *A Taken to Deceive*, author Robert Barnard pointed out: "She created a timeless, changeless world, peopled by cardboard characters who somehow manage to retain our interest. She nourishes our instinctive hope that in the end, right and truth will triumph over the evil and obscure."

Adds Barnard: "She brought murder into the home, where it belonged, seeing the murderous glint in the eye of the self-effacing bank clerk, the homicidal madness in the fluttering of the genteel lady companion." Speaking of another master of mystery, American Raymond Chandler, Barnard remarks: "Chandler saw the evil in the social organism of which we are part. Christie saw it in our wives, our friends, the quiet circle of which we are a part. And perhaps thereby, she made us see it in ourselves."

In 1960, Christie befriended actor-maeger Charles

Vance, who was to become her protegee. He was then staging one of her plays near her home in Devon. This centenary year Vance is touring the world with a production of her favourite play, *The Spider's Web*.

A best-selling author

Vance is happy to speak about Dame Agatha, but he is the first to admit her elusiveness. Aside from her impeccable manners and sly sense of humour, Vance says Dame Agatha never revealed much about herself. "She didn't have a hard shell, but a veil was drawn. She shut off after that divorce, but was determined not to be lonely, so she created companions. For all the contact I had with her, I never really knew her. Anyone who says that they did is a liar," he said. He warns against looking for the real Agatha Christie, "because you'll never find her. She would not allow anyone to see into her soul."

Christie has taken her secrets with her to the grave, but all around the world countless plays, book editions, television films and series as well as feature films keep her work alive. Although the novel that really established her reputation, *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd*, only sold 5,000 copies back in 1926, she became the world's best-selling author. Today, especially in this centenary year, Christie's books are big business.

London publishers Collins and Fontana are hoping to sell a million of them in Britain and the Commonwealth. Fontana is reissuing all 78 of her crime titles in paperback, while Collins is coming out with six centenary hardback editions of titles chosen by the author's daughter, Rosalind Hicks: *Death on the Nile*, the *ABC Murders*, *The Body in the Library*, *The Mysterious Affair at Styles*, *A Murder Is Announced* and *The Mysterious Mr. Quinn*. Collins also



Agatha Christie

plans leather-bound limited editions.

Television will also see much heightened activity to mark the centenary. TV accounts for one quarter of the annual \$7.2 million in royalties that flow into the family company. Although there have been some very bad castings of the Belgian sleuth Poirot over the decades, many agree that David Suchet is perfect for the role. A leading British station, London Weekend Television, which has produced what are regarded as the best adaptations with Suchet, is embarking on its third series. It has the rights to 33 Poirot novels and 56 short stories. Authenticity is guaranteed as the estate, through literary agent Brian Sme, keeps a close watch to ensure that there is no tampering with the original works.

Celebrations will gather momentum for the remainder

of 1990. The BBC-TV is planning on documentary special, and there will be a "Week of Mystery on the English Riviera," culminating in a visit to Agatha Christie's home town on the Orient Express.

On Christmas Day, Britain will see a Miss Marple special, *A Caribbean Mystery*, set at the Coral Reef Club in Barbados and starring Joan Hickson and Donald Pleasence. Two new feature films are also planned, *Towards Zero*, and *Death Comes at the End*. And a new rose will be named after the author at the annual Chelsea Flower Show in London this fall.

Some may argue that there are greater writers of suspense, but Agatha Christie's works have entered the world's bloodstream, being topped in number only by editions of Shakespeare and the Bible — World News Link.

Who needs borders?

By Abdullah Hassanat

AL RUWEISHED — Arabs hate borders. Borders are against their psyche. They wrote articles attacking them. They made plays and films decrying their ordeals at borders. Some Arab governments even hoisted long banners on border posts declaring "we don't believe in borders between Arabs." Ordinary Arabs agonise at borders.

This border post between Jordan and Iraq in the middle of a black boiling desert is the most stark example of what borders mean to Arabs.

In the last 50 years or so, borders served many purposes: They defined states, served as lines legitimising newly-created identities and divided the rich from the poor.

And the poor, who for years struggled to break in through those tight borders into oil-rich Arab states, are now escaping from Kuwait, not a bit richer. And every mile of their trek made them even poorer; whatever they managed to salvage from the wreckage of Kuwait, they lost along the road.

For some it took five days to journey from Kuwait to Ruweished, a trip that in normal times used to take less than half a day. "Many check points, you understand," one of them said. They fled Kuwait in cars, buses and trucks. They were charged ten times more for every leg of their journey. One Egyptian worker, arriving from Baghdad, complained that he had to pay JD 35 for the bus ride from the Iraqi capital to the border post. "This is a month's salary," he said resignedly.

And at Al Ruweished, like all other border crossings within the Arab nation, everybody is making money, even those who really shouldn't. Iraqi and Kuwaiti dinars are being exchanged for far less than their actual worth. An Iraqi or Kuwaiti dinar can hardly buy anything. Cola cans and water bottles, at this gruesomely hot place, are worth a lot of money. The car insurance company insists that payment "must be made in Jordanian currency." From Al Ruweished, all along the route to Amman black market money exchangers are having a field day.

At the only "restaurant" at this border point, this journalist had to protest fiercely when charged double for every item served. Those people, on the road for five days and with very little knowledge of the dinar's actual rate, have no chance. They are being robbed. Fortunately though, the government has started to pay attention to this problem. Jordan Television showed pictures yesterday of free meals and drinks offered to our guests, despite all the economic hardships that we Jordanians are suffering from.

So far around 135,000 crossed into Jordan — Egyptians, Yemenis, Filipinos, Bulgarians, and others. And their ordeal does not end there. Most are still stranded in Jordan: Egyptians along the desert road to Aqaba and in the port city itself. As much as 20,000 are still waiting for ships to ferry them to Egyptian ports.

Yemenis are being accommodated in mosques and schools. Filipinos in churches. And with hotels over-booked, many are seen sleeping on pavements and in public parks.

And while the Jordanian authorities are making every humanly possible effort to ease the burden on those wretched souls, and Jordanians showing generosity towards their transiting guests, other Arab borders are becoming tighter.

The Arab Nation — for decades the rallying slogan of nationalists, heroes and martyrs — is being divided on more definite lines. At the moment, just before the climax, it is those who sympathise with Iraq against those who sympathise with rich Arabs of the peninsula.

Palestinians and Yemenis, who for the last four decades helped build the oil countries' infrastructure are now the villains. And they are rejoicing at the fate of the Kuwaiti "royal" family. The Yemenis are becoming louder in their claim to Saudi territory in the south. And the Saudis and their partners in the Gulf Cooperation Council are making noises about the role which the Palestinians and the Yemenis are playing. They have already deported some of them, denied some residence permits and are hinting they will not renew expired residence permits.

In this power struggle for the region's oil and riches, new borders are emerging. They are abstract rather than physical. People talk about dignity, identity and equality. No one expects oil rich Arabs to turn against their regimes, even if those regimes turned to foreign powers for protection. The reason why Arabs in Jordan, Yemen, Tunisia and Algeria are showing full support for Iraq is that those four countries have established some sort of democracy and people are relatively free to express their opinion.

In Syria, the regime is still very much closed and oppressive. Hostility towards Iraq and its leadership is the norm by which the country is ruled. Even if the Syrians had the strongest of feelings towards Iraq they cannot express them for fear of all sorts of persecution.

Egypt is a unique case. Mubarak and his Egyptian elite are set on the course charted by Sadat: Total commitment to peace with Israel and total submission to the U.S. The latter was very much in evidence since Egypt "resumed" its Arab role. One example is Mubarak's, and the Saudi's, adamant position during the Baghdad summit not to use harsh language towards the U.S.

And with an efficient state propaganda machine inherited from the days of Nasser, Mubarak from the first day of the Gulf crisis started hitting at Iraq in a manner and intensity that convinced many Egyptians and left the rest only apathetic.

Where would all this lead? It depends on the result of the confrontation that Mubarak Tuesday described as imminent. If Iraq loses, which is a probability given the way troops are lined up on both sides, then the Arabs will languish for another few decades under American hegemony and the rule of more oppressive regimes. If Iraq wins, it will be a win for the underdog, for those who originally crossed the tight borders to collect the crumbs at the dining tables of Arab sheikhs in the desert. And if, as Mubarak predicted, the region and its people suffered a catastrophe, then along with rulers, wealth and borders will also disappear. Once more some Arabs will go back to their nomadic life, the life they have been romancing for decades. Who knows!

New York hotel's running mates ease visitors' fears

By Janet Duncan

NEW YORK — New York's Central Park, a green oasis amid the city's towering skyscrapers, has a bad reputation among visitors as a place teeming with trouble.

To allay those fears, a new hotel in midtown Manhattan is offering runners for hire.

For a fee of \$35, Penny Baxter, jogger in residence at the Hotel Macklowe, will escort hotel guests on a run through Central Park at any hour between dawn and dusk.

This latest hotel service comes more than a year after a brutal attack on a young female investment banker running alone in the park. A New York court found three teenagers guilty of rape and assault but acquitted them of attempting to murder the woman. They have not yet been sentenced.

Baxter, who has a degree in exercise physiology, said middle-aged businessmen had shown the most interest in the jogging service so far.

"They arrive here and think: 'Central Park, the place where things go wrong'" she

said, adding that by the end of their first run the guests tell her: "This is not the Central Park I thought it was."

"I thought I'd have to lock my jogging things away for the week while I was in New York because I'd heard horrible stories about running in central park," said Australian Peter Hannant, a recent guest at the Macklowe who used the service.

"We go out the front door and away we go. I tell her how far I want to run and she plans the route," added Hannant, an export manager from Sydney.

Baxter said the idea for the service came from the hotel's owner, Harry Macklowe. "We are considering doing something similar with hotels throughout the city," said Debbie King, New York Road Runners Club community relations coordinator.

She added that despite growing fears about the dangers of Central Park, crime in the 343-acre (340-hectare) park has actually dropped 25 per cent from a year ago.

Safety aside, a run through Central Park may be a busy business traveller's only chance to take in sights like

the famed clock house, a vestige of the war of 1812, and a memorial to Beatie John Lennon built by his wife, Yoko Ono.

"It can become a (sight-seeing) tour at the same time," King said of running in the 100-year-old park.

The Road Runners Club, on Manhattan's upper east side, sponsors daily evening runs requiring no advance registration.

But the business traveller, whose days are filled with meetings followed by dinners with clients, probably runs in the morning or not at all.

"Bot often it's dark early in the morning, which makes them leery of running alone because they aren't on their home turf. They will feel more comfortable if they are running with someone else," King said.

The \$35 charge includes a taxi ride to and from the park, though most guests have opted to begin their runs right outside the hotel.

Asked if the price was too steep for a five kilometre run, Hannant said, "I think it's a bit on the high side, but luckily my company will pay for it."

First female bullfighter fights for recognition

By Tom Brown

Reuter

HACIENDA LA CANADA, Mexico — She has swallowed fear and dust many times while being gored and slammed to the ground in encounters with what she describes as some of the biggest and meanest bulls in Latin America.

Bot nine years — and seven broken bones — after becoming the world's first female professional matador, Raquel Martinez says she is still fighting for recognition and the right to compete with Mexico's top male bullfighters.

"It's due to the machismo in Mexico," Martinez told Reuters. She said she had been virtually shut out of the country's top arenas and deprived of international recognition simply because she is not a man.

Martinez, 40, says she has killed more than 500 bulls, including one that gouged a chunk from her thigh three years ago in Peru and a fast-moving 550 kilogramme beast that shook the ground "like a freight train" every time it charged.

But most Mexican bullfighters refuse to appear in the

same ring with a woman, so promoters have stopped booking her, Martinez said. She said she used to fight 80 times a year but now performs no less than 12 occasions.

"The Matadors are saying 'if she fights, then we won't,' so I've been taken off the circuit," Martinez said.

"I hate to say that, because when these things come out in Mexico they (other bullfighters) hate me even more ... but they don't want to be in the same ring with me."

The reasons are many, according to Martinez, who describes herself as a tomboy born in Mexico but raised in southern California, where her favourite sport was surfing before she got hooked on bullfighting in the 1970s.

For one, her fellow fighters resent the small, blonde woman who had the gall, as she puts it, to break the barriers and assert herself in what is often described as the most macho spectacle on Earth.

"They think that because I'm a woman I'll win the audience over, whether I'm good or bad. They're mistaken.... I have to prove myself each time," she said.

"I enjoy handling the bulls so much that risking my life

doesn't mean very much."

"It's a great feeling for myself as a woman to be able to handle that power and that strength, the massive energy. An I transmit that feeling because the people feel the fear, they feel the danger," Martinez said.

She readily admits that she has had less success handling promoters and her fellow matadors, and blames them for having prevented her from performing in Latin America's leading showcase for bullfighting, Mexico City's Plaza Mexico.

Interviewed on a picturesque farm and cattle ranch in Hidalgo state, just north of Mexico city, Martinez spoke a bright future, including the possibility of forming bullfighting's first mother-and-son matador team with her 15-year-old son.

Invitations to perform later this year in Canada and the United States should give her career a boost while improving her standing in Mexico, she said.

She has been asked to compete in the World Cup challenge bullfights in the United States, an event which she said should draw top matadors from all over the world.

Driving through the mountains

By Maha Adnan

Believe me, I can drive. All I need is to learn to drive in crowded areas so I can manage rush-hours when I drive to work (that is when I find work, but that's besides the point). I need to learn to tread my way between pedestrians, who, if you ask me, need to be taught the rules of crossing the road. One word of advice to pedestrians: Check the side for the cars coming towards you, and not the ones that have already passed you!

Anyway, the solution was, a few lessons with a driving instructor.

The result: That I have to learn to reverse the car on a mountain top, which incidentally must have a valley on both sides.

Now, you tell me. When exactly will I practically need this, and how many times in my natural lifetime (which shouldn't be long if the driving instructor has his way)? Personally, if in my wildest of nightmares, I find myself on one of those unique mountaintops, only driving instructors

know about, driving forward, let alone reversing, I would calmly stop the car, and walk home, rain or shine.

Nevertheless, I have mastered reversing, and I had to go on to the next gem in the learning procedure — parallel parking.

Are you kidding me? Who in their right mind are going to risk parallel parking say behind a Mercedes 500 XDSWL, say scrape that car's fender, and say, give away their first born in payment to fix that car. No way!

Today, any car costs a fortune, and in our present day, I would drive around the block as many times as it would take to find a regular parking spot, preferably in an individualised pen.

Show me one professional cab-driver who has the patience to park parallel. A cab driver usually zooms into the crack between any two cars, miraculously missing that Jaguar, disposes off his passengers, and chugs off.

Find me one cab driver who in his professional life, needed to reverse on a mountaintop, with pitiless valleys, and I would, if put in that situation, calmly park the car, put it on neutral and push it home!

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

Thursday, Aug. 23

1839 — Hong Kong is taken by British in war with China.

1908 — Abdul Aziz of Morocco is defeated at Marrakesh by Mulai Hafid, the new sultan.

1927 — Nahas Pasha becomes leader of the Wafd in Egypt.

1944 — Allied troops in France capture port of Marseilles in World War II.

1952 — Arab League security pact goes into effect.

1987 — Iraqi warplanes bomb key Iranian petrochemical complex of Bandar Khomeini.

Friday, Aug. 24

79 — Mount Vesuvius erupts and buries Italian cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum.

1921 — Turks, in Battle of the Sakarya, prevent Greek forces from reaching Ankara.

1922 — Arab congress at Nablus rejects British mandate for Palestine.

1939 — Nazi Germany and Soviet Union sign 10-year nonaggression pact.

1965 — United Arab Republic and Yemen sign ceasefire agreement.

1968 — France explodes hydrogen bomb at South Pacific testing ground and becomes world's fifth thermonuclear power.

1986 — Pakistani government threatens "drastic action" unless opposition groups end drive to oust President Gen. Mohammad Zia Ul Haq.

1987 — Arab League urges Iran to abide by a United Nations resolution calling for a ceasefire in its war with Iraq.

1987 — Turkish security forces detain 79 armed Iranians who crossed into Turkey on way to Iraq.

1988 — Iran and Iraq open direct talks in Geneva on ending the eight-year-old Gulf war.

1988 — Japanese envoys board U.S. battleship Missouri to receive surrender instructions at the end of World War II.

1988 — North Vietnam sends its chief negotiator back to Vietnam peace talks in Paris after eight-and-one-half month boycott of negotiations.

1987 — Iran's Prime Minister Hussein Musavi accuses United States and Arab countries of seeking to impose "ignominious peace" on Iran.

1988 — Nationwide strike paralyzes government and transportation in Burma and anti-government rallies spread.

1989 — At least 19 people are killed, including 12 guerrillas, in battle in southern Mozambique town of Macio.

1915 — German army captures Brest-Litovsk in Russia during World War I.

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Saturday, Aug. 25

1718 — French immigrants found city of New Orleans in Louisiana.

1883 — Volcano erupts in Dutch East Indies, creating tidal wave that kills 36,000; France obtains protectorate over Annam and Tonkin in Indochina.

1896 — Major powers draw up revised plan for Crete which would place it under Christian governor, and plan is approved by Turkey.

1941 — British and Soviet troops invade Iran following shah's refusal to reduce number of resident Germans.

1965 — Massive avalanche roars down from glacier in Swiss Alps, burying 103 people at hydroelectric construction project.

1965 — Armenian Revolutionaries attack Ottoman Bank in Constantinople, which provokes a three-day massacre.

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Sunday, Aug. 26

55 B.C. — Roman forces under Julius Caesar invade Britain.

1316 — Artillery is reported used for first time in history in Battle of Crecy in northern France.

1514 — Suleiman I, sultan of Turkey, having invaded Hungary to dispute Archduke Ferdinand's claim to that kingdom, takes Buda and annexes Hungary which is designated a Turkish province.

1896 — Armenian Revolutionaries attack Ottoman Bank in Constantinople, which provokes a three-day massacre.

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Foam

By E. Yaghi

Just before Christmas 1989, 24,000 Americans soldiers invaded Panama City. This invasion reportedly claimed the lives of only 23 American soldiers and 300 Panamanian soldiers as well as the lives of many civilians. Estimates place the real cost of American lives alone to be well over 1,000. Whatever the cost in Panamanian or American lives, world conscience was silent and turned a blind eye towards the illegal invasion of foreign country by American forces. There were no fingers pointed shaming the invasion or voices raised in protest or even questions asked concerning the flagrant violation of the people of Panama and their inherent right to privacy and to tend to their own affairs.

There were no huge multi-national fleets sent to protect Panama, no international troops sent and no fighter jets either. There was no "umbrella" to shade the Panamanians that black day.

Forty two years ago, the world wasn't shocked by the confiscation of Palestinian land by European Jews who had no historical, Biblical or legal right to Palestine. They stole Arab land simply because they wanted to, protected under a huge "umbrella" of complete world sympathy enabling an easing of world conscience inflated by Hitler's crimes. But Hitler's crimes became the crimes of Jewish killers who seized, without any forethought or conscience, an opportunity to slay and violate an innocent people.

1967 saw the West Bank and Gaza snatched up without one tear shed by the outside world. There were no multi-national forces during this better time to defend or protect the little innocent Palestinian children who were maimed or died. There was no international boycott to force the return of Palestinian land so viciously confiscated.

The invasion of Lebanon by Israel only recently brought no cries of anger by the world and no country protested Israel's self-proclaimed "security zone" where at will they invade Lebanon. With the Israeli invasion, more Arabs died, this time Lebanese and Palestinians and the massacres of Sabra and Shatilla where innocent victims were helplessly slaughtered by the thousands were ticked off as a mere few hundred. There again were no multinational forces sent to at least protect helpless children who by fate of birth were not rich oil emirs living in a petroleum-rich country.

And where was the world during the Vietnam War? A war begun by rich war lords and ended in defeat by the

American government amidst outrage and protests of the American public because of the deaths of their sons and husbands.

The intifada coated with the blood of martyrs and Palestinian children are again maimed, tortured, and killed, but the world is indifferent and silent. A brave generation of "stone children" throw small rocks in defiance of the Israeli Goliath backed by American propaganda, money and weapons. There is no multinational force to solve the Palestinian dilemma or boycott Israel or strangle it by land, air and sea and to force it to deal with a people treated much less than second-class citizens who live on their own land.

Whatever Saddam Hussein was correct in his military take-over of Kuwait is a matter to be carefully considered, but it is an Arab problem. It began on Arab soil between Arab people and should so end without any outside interference. America has no legal or moral right to be the "police of the world." What if Kuwait didn't produce any petroleum at all, would any country have interfered when Iraq took over Kuwait militarily?

Arab lands are like a banquet for starving people, each one wants to devour as much food grabbed from the serving tray as possible.

Have the Muslim countries reached that fearful day where like the Hadeeth, they are so many, yet are like foam on water? Foam on water isn't water and has no meaning. Have the enemies of the Muslim nations stopped fearing them and have the Muslims learned to bate death and love material things?

Meanwhile, the Arab nations have become sharply divided by the Iraqi take-over of Kuwait. The infidels are having a military ball in a country holding the key to the two holiest cities in the Islamic faith and weapons of death and destruction are pouring in from all over the globe aiming at one single Arab country led by one very brave man, however right or wrong he may be, who has the courage to defy the most powerful country in the world. Saddam Hussein is looked upon by the West as a butcher and a dictator while the Zionists are successfully portraying Palestinians women and children as terrorists and subhumans.

Foam grows and collects more foam. Empty foamy bubbles pop in tune to the champagne bubbles popping in American soldiers' bellies while they defend Islamic shrines (or is it petroleum?) from an alleged dangerous invader.

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday Aug. 23

8:30 The Bill Cosby Show
Bill's son Theo moves to his apartment seeking a quite atmosphere. He doesn't behave himself optly and so he gets kicked out. Bill intervenes and puts things straight.

9:10 The return of Sherlock Holmes
Wisteria Lodge

Old man "Scott" tells Holmes about the mysterious disappearance of his Spanish friend Garcia and asks Holmes for help because he is now the suspect. It proves to be a difficult case for Holmes.

10:00 New in English

10:20 Movie of the Week
The Price of Passion
Starring: Victoria Principal
The town's beautiful young mayor is trying hard to solve the mystery of recent murders. She falls in love. Her competitors try to use her difficult situation to bring her down but she fights back, and with a lot of courage.

Friday Aug. 24

8:30 Coach.
Coach Hayden is being over protective of his daughter Kelly and asks her to drop her boyfriend Stewart. Kelly

fights back ferociously and announces her intention to marry to Stewart.

9:10 Midnight Caller
A promise to a dead man A man gets on the phone and tells Jack that he killed a woman 40 years ago. Detective Sam who banded the case then cooperates with Jack to apprehend the killer.

10:00 News in English

10:20 No More Dying Then

Saturday Aug. 25

Joint Account
Belinda is having problems with her boss, who likes her a bit too much. David arrives in the nick of time to stop Cupid from shooting his arrows at his wife.

9:00 Encounter

9:30 Music

10:00 New in English

10:20 Feature Film
Shark's Paradise
An unknown bandit threatens to ruin tourism business of a coastal

Leipzig pays tribute to Max Beckmann

By Camilla Blechen

ONE of this year's major exhibitions in East Germany is bypassing East Berlin and Dresden. Leipzig is the lucky venue of a comprehensive Max Beckmann exhibition organised by the director of the Frankfurt Stadel museum, financed by Westerg funds, and sponsored by Luftansa.

The selection of Beckmann's paintings will be displayed in the Museum of Fine Arts built in the former German Supreme Court in 1952. This representative exhibition has been made possible by loans from no less than 50 European and American museums and several private collectors. It commemorates the 40th anniversary of the death of Max Beckmann, who was born in Leipzig on Feb. 12, 1884, the son of a corn merchant. He spent the first eight years of his life there.

The Beckmann retrospective was arranged long before the "wind of change" in East Germany was reflected in the German-German Cultural Agreement. It benefits from the worldwide reputation of the "city heroes."

Potential donors, who were hesitant to make their items available for the exhibition before the political watershed on Nov. 9, 1989, suddenly changed their mind; the museum in Leipzig was more than grateful for an "impulse of encouragement in a difficult situation."

Altogether, 97 of Beckmann's total of over 800 artistic works, mostly his best oeuvre, will be shown. The aspects and nuances emphasised in this retrospective differ from those in the retrospective presented on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of Beckmann's birthday shown in Munich, West Berlin, Saint Louis and Los Angeles in 1984.

Conspicuous by their absence, however, are two incubators of the change of style in the wake of the shattering experience of the World War I: the strenuously Gothicising Kreuzabnahme (1917) and the infernal portent of Nacht (1919), and, as an example of the transition to unbridled painting, Hölle

der Vögel (1938).

Although the transcontinental 1984 exhibition with its 132 panel paintings was much more extensive than the Leipzig retrospective it lacked a number of Beckmann's major works, which can be admired at the Museum of Fine Arts in Leipzig.

These include the clay-like Sezession style. Schlacht (1907)—a permanent loan by private collector Peter Ludwig, the, in terms of height and width, no less sweeping Auferstehung (state gallery, Stuttgart), the sinewy portrait of the composer Max Reger (Kunsthaus Zürich), the Weibliche Akt mit Hund with its unusual perspective (Wiesbaden museum), the Große Fisch-Stilleben garishly embedded in black (Hamburg Kunsthalle), two colouristically and compositionally outstanding views of Scheveningen (Munich and Zürich), and the portrait Quappi mit Papagei (Mülheim an der Ruhr), which resembles a homage to Manet.

The host of loans provided for his exhibition reveals an unceasing sympathy, especially on the part of the West German donors, for an old-established institution, which, despite its valuable stocks, was unable to find a more worthy domicile than the Georgi Dimitroff Museum. The Museum of Fine Arts, which itself owns two Beckmann paintings — both are integrated into the exhibition, wants to thank the Frankfurt organisers of the retrospective with a Max Klinger exhibition in spring 1992, which will probably also include the Beethoven monument now in the Neues Gewandhaus.

The exhibition hosts in Leipzig are particularly pleased that two triptychs which were missing in the 1984 exhibition have found their way to Leipzig.

Schauspieler, in the middle of which the protagonist bearing Beckmann's own features theatrically commits suicide, (1941/42) is the fifth set of three pictures painted without a commission but undoubtedly intended for public rooms; Argonauten, with its allusion to the Greek legend of the Golden Fleece, is the ninth

and last.

Quappi Beckmann was disinclined to lend what some connoisseurs viewed as her husband's "testament" and bequeathed it posthumously to the National Gallery in Washington.

In Leipzig it will be confronted for the first time by two of its motif-related predecessors, the two versions of Junge Männer Meer painted in 1905 and 1943. In the centre panel of Argonauten youths appear on the scene, as Uwe M. Schneede remarks in his catalogue, as "embodiments of the paradisiacal, of innocence, and of idealism," for whom a decline and a rebirth lie ahead.

In East Germany Beckmann's works are, as Klaus Galtwitz pithily put it, undoubtedly an "object of curiosity." Art historiographers periodically ignored the most significant German painter of the 20th century.

"During the Fifties and Sixties, when he would have been important," the director of the Leipzig museum, Dieter Gleisberg, explains, Beckmann was taboo, falling mercilessly under the verdict formalism.

Berlin painter Harald Metzkes ran into tremendous trouble when he tried to paraphrase the Abtransport der Sphinx in 1956. Later on, says Gleisberg, this painter, who died in America, became a kind of "moral authority" for many East German artists.

Bernhard Heisig, for example, fought almost passionately for the recognition of Beckmann in his native Leipzig and thus paved the way for the first exhibition in 1984, which materialised with the help of Beckmann's son Peter and which brought together early paintings with drawings and printed graphics from four museums in East Germany.

East German artists, first and foremost Wolfgang Matheuer from Leipzig, incorporated symbols such as the ladder leading nowhere, the truncated tree and the wide-open windows. Inflationary use has been made of the figure of Icarus falling from the sky since the Seventies.

The major art exhibitions in



Self-Portrait: Beckmann in dinner-jacket, 1927, oil on canvas.

Dresden brimmed over with triptychs. Not only better-known artists, but also unknown artists adopted the presentation of the altar painting; not only Otto Dix sent his regards in this respect.

Max Beckmann, cleverly integrated into the socialist Zeitgeist by Bernhard Heisig as "one of the adamant critics of the life-style dictated by capitalism," was omnipresent, even though most East German artists were only familiar with illustrations in catalogues or monographs. The works at the Leipzig exhibition are, according to Galtwitz, "a reward for the long period of vacancy and deprivation" and allow artists in the GDR to see Beckmann originals for the first time.

With reference to the proportionally balanced periods of his artistic work visitors can reconstruct Beckmann's fate by looking at fifteen autonomous (and numerous "hidden") self-portraits.

The earliest dates back to 1907 and shows the self-confident scholarship holder of the Villa Romana in Florence; later on the Nietzschean-inspired wearer of a dinner-jacket, and finally, the tired and disappointed artist of 1950.

The order of these portraits represents the backbone of the retrospective, lending it a special atmosphere, an aura specially tailored to the artist's personality.

The Bauhaus artist Josef Albers, another artist emigrating from a different stylistic camp, once remarked, not without irony, in reference to the homeogenous artistic cosmos of his rival: "Beckmann is always the same — I am not."

To assess the highly differentiated constants in the works of the great metaphysician picture by picture is just one variant of artistic appraisal at the Leipzig exhibition — Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung.

Rock star diversifies

By Max de Lothiniere

LONDON — Bobbing up and down as he speaks, Don Letts' chest-length dreadlocks seem to have a life of their own. Every bit of this small wiry dark man exudes energy. It comes through although his eyes are obscured by intricate dark glasses, a cross between welder's goggles and your average sun-protectors. Mind you, with the life he leads, he probably needs all the energy he's got. Not content with being a famous pop star, Letts has made 150 music videos, has tried his hand at documentaries and has even had a small part in a movie.

The pop star turned king of video jumps up out of his seat again, pacing the room then returning to the comfortable sofa provided by Island Records at its west London headquarters. The move sends his large hat full of dreadlocks on a precarious wobble, but it settles down again as he extends a hand to make his point: "Education is a very serious thing, but it can be abused. Then it becomes indoctrination and does not help you to realise your full potential."

Don Letts is not exactly the sort of opinion-former who could hold much sway over the educational motivation of modern teenagers. Now, first and foremost he makes videos, but until last year was a founding member of the group Big Audio Dynamite, better known as BAD. A well-known face in fashionable parts of London, Letts has carved a name for himself in the city that has been the cradle of pop video production. His style is direct and he makes a point of using images that have earned him a reputation for being uncompromising and outspoken.

Letts admits to two important influences: his discovery of Rastafarianism (a religious cult among black Jamaicans which strongly influenced Caribbean music) and a self immersion in black radical literature in the 1970s. He speaks about education from the point of view of someone who went into his chemistry exam at 16 and penned the words: "A chemist I am not



Don Letts

to be." Now 34 he does not want that early divergence from the British school system to be held up as an example to young people. While he may still be allergic to exams, learning and awareness are two things he takes very seriously.

Island Records is a new musical home for Letts, founded by white Jamaican Chris Blackwell over 20 years ago, the company has brought the rich culture of reggae music to audiences around the world. With BAD behind him, Letts is about to start recording with his new group, Screaming Target, with both a new sound and a new philosophy.

Letts formed BAD in the early 1980s with Mick Jones, an ex-member of the formative punk band The Clash. BAD's style mixed white rock and black dance music, and the group is credited with championing cross-cultural awareness that was forerunner of today's "World music" phenomenon. Letts' musical career began in 1976 as a disc jockey in the midst of the punk rock revolution in London. While bands like The Clash were playing their first gigs, he was "turning on" white audiences to reggae. But turns in his musical career and the style of BAD have left him with an urge to re-assess himself. He sums this process up in a carefully delivered statement: "I had crossed over but I couldn't get black."

Screaming Target is a re-

turn to his black culture but it is not a turning away from other audiences. In a way it reflects the dilemma experienced by the boy born to Jamaican parents and brought up in south London. Now Letts says that, although he returns to Jamaica once a year, he has no doubts about where he belongs and wants this feeling to part of his music. "Basically the style is reggae," he explains, "and although the band has a totally black background, it does not deny the quality of being black British." The last words are repeated for extra emphasis because the concept is important to Letts' understanding of his own role in British society.

One of his latest projects was more in the documentary vein. He made a film about Namibia's independence celebrations this spring. It was his first trip to Africa and he describes it as a major spiritual experience, that of a black British citizen coming to terms with a new and alien environment. He recalls finding himself lost in the Namibian desert and realising that his Western education has taught him none of the skills needed to survive in that environment.

Lessons like this are what Don Letts refers to when he underlines the importance of education and self-awareness. "I understand my potential and that's what takes me forward," he says. Where to is anybody's guess — World News Link.

Arts community mobilises to fight strictures on U.S. federal grants

By Robert Andrews
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — An "art ambulance" carrying coffins containing once-banned books and paintings tours Boston neighbourhoods. A reproduction of Rodin's famous sculpture, "the thinker," is covered daily with a shroud in San Francisco.

A jazz funeral is held at the New Orleans Museum of Art. Curtain speeches are given at New York Shakespeare Festival performances in Central Park. Brochures mailed by the Virginia Symphony depict Michelangelo's statue of David with the slogan "banned in the U.S.A.?" pasted over his genitals.

Across the United States this summer, the arts community is mobilising public support for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) in the escalating brouhaha over federal financing of controversial art.

The endowment, funded by U.S. tax dollars, is a major source of financing for artists in all areas.

Characteristically slow to anger, arts supporters have begun striking back at conservative members of Congress and religious fundamentalists who accuse the NEA of subsidising obscene and blasphemous art with taxpayers' funds.

Concert audiences, theatre-goers and visitors to museums and art galleries are being recruited as foot soldiers in the arts advocates' battle to protect the NEA from serious damage this fall when Congress debates extending the life of the \$171-million Federal Arts Agency.

Congress, prompted by

protests of NEA-financed projects, amended this year's agency budget to ban federal support of "depictions of sadomasochism, homoeroticism, the sexual exploitation of children or individuals engaged in sex acts."

NEA Chairman John Frohnmayer acknowledged on Aug. 9 in Denver that "we have been badly hurt by the events of the past 15 months." He denounced an argument by religious fundamentalists who have called the agency "a purveyor of pornography."

Supporters of restrictions say the issue is not censorship, as many artists contend, but taxpayers' right to decide where their money is spent.

In a recent full-page ad in major newspapers, fundamentalist activist the Rev. Pat Robertson asked members of Congress, "do you want to face the voters in your district with the charge that you are wasting their hard-earned money to promote sodomy, child pornography and attacks on Jesus Christ?"

On the other side, pamphlets labeled "be quiet and the arts will just go away" are being banded to theater patrons in Chicago, courtesy of the Illinois Arts Alliance. Inside are cutout postcards urging senators and House of Representatives members to support the NEA, and carrying this warning:

"A small faction of politicians and extreme right-wingers want to eliminate the National Endowment for the Arts, which provides government support for artists and arts institutions in the United States. This minority is well-organised and vocal. Their side is winning."

In Baltimore, patrons of Baltimore Symphony Orchestra concerts, centre stage plays and Maryland Art Place Exhibition openings are asked to write members of Congress, sign petitions and dial a special 900 telephone number appealing for a five-year extension of the NEA, without any anti-obscenity restrictions on the grants it awards.

The League of American

Theatres and Producers in New York published a pro-NEA editorial in theater programmes that have reached an estimated 1 million theatregoers. The Metropolitan Arts Commission in Portland, Oregon, working with Mayor Bud Clark, won the endorsement of the U.S. Conference of Mayors for a letter to congress urging no-strings support for the endowment.

A full-page advertisement in the Boston Globe last month, featuring a once-controversial John Singer Sargent portrait of a woman with a plunging neckline, resulted in 1,000 calls urging members of Congress to support the NEA, the ad's sponsors said.

An estimated 5,000 patrons of San Francisco Bay Area bookstores signed letters petitioning Sen. Pete Wilson, a

California Republican, to vote against anti-obscenity curbs on the endowment. Rodin's The Thinker was shrouded for an hour a day during a 12-day "festival of freedom of expression" in San Francisco in an action backed by more than 200 arts organisations.

Bob Lynch, director of the non-profit National Association of Local Arts Agencies,

said his organisation's telephone campaign has yielded an estimated 100,000 mailgrams and perhaps a half-million personal calls and letters to Capitol Hill in support of the endowment.

Although the NEA's conservative critics are heavily financed, Lynch said, "we will ultimately win because it is becoming clear that Americans recognise the value of

the arts and the endowment, and are not people who respond blindly to the other side's appeals to 'stop sin'."

The House has agreed to begin debate on the arts endowment's fate in September, when it will consider Republican-led proposals to restrict the agency's grant-making authority, shift the bulk of its grant money to state control or abolish the NEA.

Some artists denied U.S. federal grants

By Michael Kuchwara
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The words almost shout off the wall of what used to be a 19th century shipping supply house in the now fashionable section of Manhattan called Tribeca.

"It's my body. It's not Pepsi's body. It's not Nancy Reagan's body. It's not Congress's body. ... my body is paid for in full by me. My body is mine," says the defiant, hand-painted script.

These are the thoughts of Karen Finley, one of four "performance artists" denied fellowship grants in June by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), the taxpayer-financed source of much of the arts funding in the United States.

The rejections triggered a firestorm of protests from arts groups across the country as well as support for the NEA decision by conservative critics in Congress and various religious groups.

The four were turned down for fellowships by NEA Chairman John Frohnmayer

and its advisory board, the National Council on the Arts, despite unanimous recommendations by a peer panel. Fourteen performance artists did receive grants, ranging from \$5,000 to \$11,250.

Performance art first flourished in the mid-1970s, primarily in the New York and Los Angeles art worlds. It uses theatre, dance, music and the visual arts to make its points. Works are staged everywhere, from theatres to the streets. Artists can use everything from elaborate props and costumes to none at all. Anything goes, and usually does.

The other rejected artists are Holly Hughes of New York, John Fleck of Los Angeles and Tim Miller of Santa Monica, California. Finley has received the most publicity.

Finley's installation at Franklin Furnace, an organisation founded in 1976 to present visual works as well as performance art, includes two long essays painted on the walls of the gallery. Both essays deal with violence

against women, specifically rape and abortion. The language is frank, often violent and crude.

The four artists denied grants are all in their 30s. All have received federal money in the past. And all are appealing their rejections. Three of the artists are homosexual and celebrate their sexuality in their work.

Some, like Finley, use nudity in performance. Much has been made in the media of Finley's performance piece "we keep our victims ready," in which she dances nude and smears her body with chocolate to show the degradation of women.

"I am being punished because I am a morally concerned artist," Finley said during a recent emotional news conference at the public theatre.

"I have made a commitment in creating work that addresses social concerns," said Finley, who when she isn't touring lives with her husband in Nyack, New York, north of New York City. "Much of my work deals

with victims in our society and I use the language of how society treats these victims: women, people living with AIDS, minorities, gays and lesbians, the homeless and the victims of child abuse, incest and violent crimes."

Hughes' work is sexual but she uses humour, too, to make political statements. The 35-year-old performer came from the midwest to New York to be a painter, but ended up in performance art, acting out her own pieces in small downtown and East Village clubs.

She calls her work "story-telling," and her best-known monologue is titled "world without end," written in honour of her mother, who died in 1987.

"It's about my mother telling me the facts of life," Hughes said in an interview. "The piece is informational. I realised it was amazingly in contrast to a lot of stories I had heard from friends of mine whose mothers gave them absolutely no sexual information. In the piece I say it

was a gift, the best thing my mother ever did for me. She had a certain pride in her body that was really wonderful."

John Fleck calls himself a pop culture commentator, but he's an actor as well.

Fleck moved to California 18 years ago at age 21 to attend the Los Angeles branch of the American Academy of Dramatic Arts. "Ever since then, I've been doing every workshop imaginable," he says. "I also type 110 words per minute. That's how I also supported myself."

Fleck started doing his own work about eight years ago in Los Angeles rock 'n' roll clubs.

He started doing more theatrical pieces about five years ago.

"I have a 3 1/2 octave voice, so I'd play all the male and female roles," he said. "My early pieces had a lot to do with sexual ambiguity, the split between the male and female sides of myself and the conflict created by them not being able to accept one

another."

Tim Miller's monologues also deal with his sexuality. "My performances draw from stories and points of view from my own life," said the 31-year-old Miller. "A lot of it explores my identity as a gay person. There's a lot of political content in the material."

All four artists are receiving more offers to work than they have gotten in the past. Finley's performance in New York at Lincoln Centre's Serious Fun Festival on July 27 quickly sold out and a second performance was added.

Still, the notoriety has had its effect on them.

"It's horrible in a way," Hughes said. "Artists want attention, but it's not the kind of attention you want. It's not coming from someone saying, 'now she's the most fabulous thing since canned ham.' People are coming to see me because they wonder, 'is she really as terrible as they say?' Or 'is she really pornographic?' It has become sort of a freak show."

Entomologist: Americans should eat more bugs

By William McCall
The Associated Press

CORVALLIS, Oregon — What has a nutty flavour and looks like brown scrambled eggs?

Bakuti. That's Nepalese for squished boneybees.

What looks like ridged French fries, only with eyes and legs, and tastes great deep-fried?

Bamboo worms.

Yuk, you say? How about a nice helping of honey instead? Sorry to disappoint you, but it's really bee vomit.

Okay, so maybe you can deal with the truth about honey. But that's not all. Most Americans don't realise they're already eating a pound or two of insects every year.

They just can't see them because they're ground up into tiny little chunks in strawberry jam, peanut butter, spaghetti sauce, applesauce and frozen chopped broccoli.

The insect parts even add to the protein, making some pro-

ducts more nutritious, said Michael Burgett, an entomologist at Oregon State University.

He estimates every acre of land in Oregon contains about 100 pounds (45 kilograms) of insect protein. In tropical areas, it's about 400 pounds (181 kilograms).

Burgett bemoans the fact that most of the protein is going to waste. Except for that extra touch of tartness in the jam on a muffin, of course.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) says there is no way to eliminate all bugs from our food, so it sets what are called "defect action levels" to control the amount of insect parts, rodent hairs, molds and other tiny particles that pose no health hazard.

"Essentially the FDA is saying you can only have enough bugs so you can't see them," Burgett said.

"We have an innate bias against insects I blame on our European heritage. For our

culture, insects are outside the realm of food. The glaring exception is honey, which is bee vomit, essentially. It's a plant product mediated by an insect."

Burgett is an internationally recognised expert on bees. He respects bees. He is fascinated with their behaviour.

And, he said, they make delicious cookies.

"A pound (half kilogramme) of bees is about 3,500 bees. You put them in the oven at low heat for eight hours, then grind or blend the dry husks into flour. Makes great cookies. About half my students ate the cookies the first year I made them. Most of them said they didn't taste any different. So I cheated the second year and put in 'grape-nuts' (breakfast cereal) to make them crunchy."

But if you really want crunchy, the giant waterbug is the appetizer of choice. Roasted and eaten whole, it's a favourite in Asia, said Burgett, who's sampled a

variety of insect fare.

"You'll find that Asian cultures have incorporated insects in their diets for a long time. One of the most popular insects in Asia is the giant waterbug, which is like a big cockroach. It's easily collected around lights at night, especially around ponds."

In Thailand, you can judge a restaurant by the bugs in the menu.

"In Thailand, about 50 species of insects are commonly eaten. That's a lot. And they're eaten by a broad spectrum of society. I've gone to very nice Thai restaurants and they have excellent insect dishes on the menu," Burgett said.

American consumers are so finicky about bugs, they'll never eat them, Burgett said. At least they won't "mass consume" them in the numbers needed to make bug ranching a solid commercial success.

"They've talked about us

ing termites in the northwest. Highly nutritious with high protein content per body weight. But who's going to eat them?"

"Bee keepers in western Canada kill their bees in the fall because it's too expensive to keep them through the winter. They restock from southern California in the spring but all those bee pupae are going to waste. The major hurdle, again, is who wants to eat it? There is a gourmet market in Japan for the male pupae of the honeybee, but that market is small."

If people won't eat cooked bugs, no matter how tasty and nutritious, at least they could tolerate more bugs in what they do eat, Burgett said. If the FDA would relax the limit for insect parts, say double it, U.S. farmers could significantly reduce the amount of pesticides sprayed every year.

"Snap beans are a perfect example. The 12-spotted cucumber beetle takes tiny

little bites out of the beans. It doesn't harm the bean but consumers want perfection. So the growers spray the beans to rid them of beetles and bite marks. When growers drive up to the food processing plant, people sample the beans and bite marks, if the ratio is too high, the company will tell the grower, 'we'll have to process this batch differently,' so the growers make less money."

Farmers are spraying less because pesticides costs are rising and alternate pest management strategies are working, Burgett said. Much of the spraying that remains is for appearance, and that won't change until consumers stop being so squeamish about bugs, he said.

"If you say, 'I don't want any bugs in my food, and I don't want any insecticide residue,' then we'll all starve," Burgett said. "I'd rather eat more insects and less pesticide residue."

Magnetic-field technique used to diagnose cancer

By Thomas Martin

BLOOD can be "finger-printed" in power magnetic fields to diagnose cancer. Spectrometer analysis, based on a U.S. technique, has been perfected by staff at a private university in the Ruhr.

They are Sittke Aygen, a Turkish chemist, and Kurt Zanker, a German immunologist. Dr. Zanker is professor of immunology at Witten/Herdecke University.

Neither were experts in cancer diagnosis but they have passed a double blind test with flying colours, diagnosing certain kinds of cancer and the changes they cause from a few drops of the patient's blood.

They are roughly 80 per cent right where two kinds of cancer are concerned, and their success rate is even higher for septic poisoning, which can occur after accidents or operations and can often be lethal.

There was no quick or easy way to diagnose sepsis. The traces of infection are minute; only its effect, putrefaction, or invasion by pathogenic bacteria, was readily identifiable.

It took over a day to identify, whereas medical counter-measures within hours were essential if the patient's blood-poisoned life was to be saved.

"Using our method we can safely diagnose sepsis in half an hour," Aygen says. He and his colleagues are backed by a Frankfurt drug company, Biotech Pharma GmbH, and by immunologist Professor Ingolf Scheel of Hanover medical college.

The analysis technique is now being fine-tuned in clinical trials of 100 patients.

Aygen and Zanker are marketing their findings via a Frankfurt-based firm specially set up for the purpose, the Institut für Biomedizinische Analytik und NMR-Imaging GmbH, which is attached to the Ruhr University.

They analyse blood samples with the aid of a nuclear spin spectrometer, a smaller version of the heavyweight nuclear spin tomograph that is used to make human organs visible.

Unlike the tomograph, which weighs tonnes, the spectrometer is fairly inconspicuous device. "Nothing larger than a mouse would fit into the aperture," Aygen says.

But it generates an extremely powerful magnetic field five times more powerful than the tomograph's. It weighs in at 9.4 tesla, the tesla being a unit of magnetic flux density.

The resulting photos are very high-density, but for serum cancer diagnosis only the spectra count. The technique is based on the fact that the blood undergoes changes in the wake of infection.

Analysis should be suffi-

cient for diagnosis, but the reality is more complex. Some changes occur in connection with other upsets, such as inflammation or pregnancy, and they vary from individual to individual.

Tendencies tally, so the Witten scientists analyse at least five parameters to fingerprint the blood. They can then diagnose breast and stomach cancer with roughly 80 per cent accuracy.

The technique is not yet accurate enough for use in diagnosing complaints of other organs.

One key parameter is the ratio of saturated to unsaturated fatty acids in the blood. In healthy people it is roughly equal, whereas cancer patients have more unsaturated fatty acids.

"That alone is not enough," Aygen says. "The same reaction can occur in connection with inflammation." But a molecule has been found that provides a reliable pointer.

In cancer patients' blood the concentration of this molecule is three to five times above normal. Aygen and Zanker will only say which it is, once the technique is patented.

Some of the measurements take a while, up to six hours, but 500 samples have been tested within a year at DM 700 each. Given the time and cost, the technique is felt to be suitable for mass use, such as regular cancer checks.

But it could be a satisfactory substitute for protracted and exacting tests on patients who belong to risk groups on genetic or professional grounds.

The Zanker-Aygen technique is particularly useful in monitoring the progress of treatment. A blood sample is all that is needed to determine whether the patient is making progress or not.

The recommended dosage and exposure time in chemotherapy or radiation treatment can be specified more exactly for cancer patients too.

The two men plan to perfect their technique in the years ahead, investing DM 2.5 million, which will include funds supplied by the North Rhine-Westphalian Research Ministry.

"We are still in the early days," Aygen says. He feels sure there is much more to be learnt.

He has more than medicine in mind. Nuclear spin spectroscopy might well be a promising new approach to analysing environmental toxins or identifying foreign bodies in foodstuffs.

When he samples a glass of wine he can easily make sure it hasn't been tampered with or adulterated. "Using our technique we can definitely say when a wine has added sugar for taste," he says — Wirtschaftswoche, Düsseldorf.

Pan-German abortion debate intensifies as unity nears

By Terrence Petty
The Associated Press

BONN, West Germany — A searing abortion debate got even hotter Tuesday when a leading lawmaker insisted West German women be legally barred from taking advantage of East Germany's liberal abortion law after unity.

"Abortion tourism (to East Germany) would be unleashed if there were no threat of punishment," said Wolfgang Boetsch, a high-ranking member of a conservative party that is part of West German

Chancellor Helmut Kohl's coalition government.

How to reconcile the two Germanies' vastly varying abortion laws has become a huge women's rights issue in both nations.

Sentiments are so divided the two nations last month postponed deciding on a united Germany's abortion statutes until an all-German parliament can take up the matter.

When unity occurs by the end of the year, two abortion laws will exist in one nation — West Germany's strict statute, and the far more lenient one

in what is now East Germany. Women must prove medical necessity or financial hardship to have an abortion in West Germany, while abortions are free on demand in the first trimester in East Germany.

East Germany insists that its abortion law be retained. The debate is not only between two nations, but also between political partners.

The liberal Free Democrats, junior coalition partners in Kohl's government, have proposed not to prosecute West German women if they choose to travel to East German turf for abortions after

unity. But that idea has enraged the conservative Christian Social Union (CSU), the Bavarian sister party of Kohl's Christian Democrats.

"The CSU will not abide such a step," Boetsch said, "reversing the state's protection for the unborn life is out of the question (for West Germans), under any circumstances."

West German women face heavy fines for violating their nation's abortion statutes.

East German doctors say West German women have already begun crossing the

border seeking to benefit from the more liberal abortion law.

East German doctors have been telling border-crossers that abortions on foreigners are not allowed. So far there have been no reports of East German doctors violating that law.

Kohl has stayed clear of the fight. But his Christian Democrats have insisted West Germany's abortion law is the better one and should serve as the model for that of a united Germany.

Under West German law, abortions are legally allowed

only if there is a life-threatening risk to the mother, if the pregnancy resulted from rape or incest, or if birth would create extraordinary social and economic hardship.

East German women, on the other hand, have a fundamental legal right to abortion within the first 12 weeks.

East Germany, with a population of about 16 million, last year recorded 73,000 abortions. The figure was 75,297 in West Germany, whose population is about four times greater than its Eastern neighbour's.

People in risk groups should be vaccinated against 'flu

BY Klaus Dallbor

DOCTORS often doubt the wisdom of influenza vaccination even though epidemics may occur all over the world, British and German doctors, including doctors from both German states, agreed at a conference held in London by the German Green Cross.

In the Federal Republic, for instance, no information is available about how many patients are given 'flu shots by their general practitioner and no register of people who have been vaccinated is kept.

Estimates, said Professor Günther Maass of the Land Hygienic and Bacteriological Research Establishment, Münster, were all the experts had to go by.

The situation is not much different in Britain — even though GPs voluntarily report, at no extra cost, all cases of infectious disease to the health authorities.

But in many cases both British doctors and the general public have little confidence in 'flu jabs. As detailed information is not available the exact extent of an influenza epidemic is hard to assess.

So, of course, is the hyper-mortality it may cause. All that could be said to be known was the tip of an iceberg, the conference was told.

For similar reasons Profes-

sor Waltrande Thilo of the Central Institute of Hygiene, Microbiology and Epidemiology, East Berlin, described the situation in the GDR as far from satisfactory.

All cases of infectious disease had to be reported to the East German authorities, she said, but the authorities were not active enough and often made mistakes when they did resort to action.

Only about 50 per cent of people suffering from chronic bronchitis, who were liable to be particularly hard-hit by influenza, had been given 'flu shots.

In all not one risk patient in five had been vaccinated against the virus. Paediatricians against the virus. Paediatricians were felt to be particularly reluctant to give children 'flu jabs.

East Germans slow to volunteer

East Germans in general, Professor Thilo said, had shown a marked lack of enthusiasm in response to appeals to be vaccinated against influenza.

It is, indeed, virtually impossible to say how many people die of the virus. During the last major epidemic in Britain, from 19 November 1989 to 9 February 1990, there

were 26,080 deaths more than the year before.

Dr John Watson of Public Health Laboratory Service, London, said 2,440 deaths could be considered to have been caused by 'flu. Most were old people. Ninety-five per cent of those who died were over 65.

Even so, as Dr Watson told the conference, other factors than influenza itself must be borne in mind in connection with hypermortality during a 'flu epidemic.

The 'flu virus is frequently not the immediate cause of death, but it may tend to exacerbate other complaints from which the patient suffers, such as coronary disease. The cause of death is a mystery where young men of between 20 and 40 are concerned. They had 'flu and died, yet showed no signs of symptoms of any kind.

In their case death has tentatively been attributed to a collapse of the immune system of which there are no outward symptoms.

The success of vaccination campaigns is hampered by the rate at which the influenza virus itself changes, by what doctors call its "antigen variability."

Roughly 200 strains of

from coughs and colds to pneumonia.

Influenza, which often occurs in epidemics, comes in only two main virus categories, A and B, as they were classified in 1972, with the A type coming in subtypes based on two features of its genetic structure, haemagglutinin (H) and neuraminidase (N).

Three immunologically distinct H types (H1, H2 and H3) and two N types (N1 and N2) have so far been identified among over 20 A subtypes as the cause of human influenza.

The sudden occurrence of new antigen structures in influenza A viruses is attributed to genetic recombination, possibly under the influence of animal viruses, or to genome reassortment. Slight differences in subtype that are known as "drift" occur nearly every among both A and B strains, whereas clear changes in antigen characteristics — known as "shift" — have so far only been identified among A types and at intervals of several years. These shifts are what usually trigger an influenza epidemic. Influenza virus infection is not limited to the respiratory tracts; once the virus has been multiplied in the blood it can spread and cause damage to a number of organs.

In old people's homes and

other welfare facilities 'flu can spread like wildfire, usually via droplets from the nose and throat. So older people would be well advised to go in for a 'flu shot.

Individual protection must be given priority, Professor Maass said.

As a general precaution over-65s ought to be vaccinated. So ought children and adults with heart, chest and lung complaints, chronic respiratory trouble, kidney disease and anaemia, diabetes and immune deficiency.

Risk groups also include people who are exposed to infection at work or might pass them on to others, such as health service staff, dental mechanics, firemen and civil servants who frequently come into contact with the general public.

Pregnant women are advised to take a 'flu shot, especially as the serum used in the Federal Republic has few if any side-effects.

This serum consists of virus parts; the full virus serum still occasionally used in other countries is less satisfactory when used on children. Early autumn was the best time to take a jab, Professor Maass said, but any other time would do.

Laboratory practice has shown that early warning of

an epidemic is only possible if samples are specially taken at doctor's surgeries.

So better cooperation of general practitioners and paediatricians is badly needed, experts say, and as old people are particularly endangered, homes ought to notify them more regularly when infections proliferate.

The conference called on the media in particular to lend a helping hand. That having been said, no-one knows why the influenza virus is so widespread in winter. It may be because the virus can survive better at lower temperatures.

Internationally the spread of 'flu epidemics is monitored for the World Health Organisation, Geneva, by 100 national health centres.

Their work is coordinated by the Centre for Disease Control in Atlanta, Georgia, and the World Influenza Centre, London.

Their role, said Dr John J. Skebel, head of the London centre, is to identify the year's new virus crop and to liaise with the WHO in making vaccination recommendations every spring.

The experts made it clear that while existing vaccines worked satisfactorily there was still scope for basic research to devise better ones — Die Welt, Bonn.

AIDS threatens to shred S. African economy by 2000

By Brendan Boyle
Reuters

JOHANNESBURG — AIDS will begin to shred the fabric of South Africa's economy within a decade, according to predictions by three major financial institutions.

Two banks, Nedcor and Volkskas Group, as well as the old mutual assurance company warned separately this month of a looming catastrophe caused by acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) in the first decade of the next century.

Predictions focused on AIDS will have

on population growth, health care, housing, education, employment, industrial productivity and export markets in South Africa, the potential economic powerhouse of sub-Saharan Africa.

"We are talking about over 45 per cent, up to half the adult population, being AIDS carriers by the turn of the century," old mutual chief actuary Theo Hartwig told Reuters.

"Something approaching half a million people will be sick or dying," he said in one of the more conservative forecasts.

The South African Depart-

ment of National Health said that as of June this year, there had been 430 known cases of AIDS in the country, of whom 206 had died. It said 4,351 people were infected with the AIDS virus HIV.

The simultaneous warnings were made days after a report by the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) urging mine owners to break the pattern of migrant labour that shatters family life and encourages the spread of AIDS.

"We have a ready-made 'path of least resistance' which the AIDS virus can follow. Millions of South Africans live in ... poverty, without

permanent homes, in single sex hostels ... without access to the most basic services," the NUM said.

Volkskas said in its latest economic review that by 1995 the medical bill for treating people with AIDS-related illnesses could reach 14 billion rand (\$5.4 billion), almost 20 times the current national health budget.

Nedcor's economic research unit said the health care bill could reach a theoretical 90 billion rand (\$35 billion) by the year 2000, more than the total 1990 budget of 73 billion rand (\$28 billion).

Acknowledging that projec-

tions on the spread of AIDS were little more than educated guesswork, Nedcor said: "The accuracy may be in doubt, but there would appear to be no dispute about the inevitability of a major catastrophe."

"Without due recognition of the impact of AIDS, planning decisions could be seriously amiss. There will be radical changes to cost structures, mechanisation trends, consumer demand patterns and markets," the Nedcor report said.

The banking group urged businessmen to monitor trends in the light of AIDS

and to adjust their corporate strategies.

The other groups stressed education as the only way to mitigate the impact of the disease, which is expected to kill millions throughout Africa by the year 2010.

Hartwig said South African business and industry would face major adjustments caused by labour and skill shortages, altered consumer patterns and different construction priorities.

"For the next five years there is probably going to be very little physical impact. But from then it is going to go into overdrive," he said.

Breast cancer therapy may also lower risk of heart disease

WASHINGTON (R) — A popular breast cancer treatment may also lower the risk of heart disease in postmenopausal women, according to a new study.

The drug is Tamoxifen, marketed under the name Nolvadex by its maker, London-based Imperial Chemical Industries Plc. (ICI).

Tamoxifen is administered to postmenopausal women after surgery to prevent the spread of breast cancer to other parts of the body and to delay cancer recurrence. The compound is also under study as a breast cancer preventative.

"It's the leading breast cancer drug in the country and probably the world," said Joel T. A. Tau, a spokesman for ICI Americas Inc, the firm's U.S. arm.

New research by a scientific team led by Dr Richard Love of the University of Wisconsin, Madison, found that blood cholesterol levels dropped substantially in breast cancer patients taking the drug and remained low throughout their two-year study.

While both the "good" and "bad" types of cholesterol were lowered by the therapy, the researchers said they determined that the overall impact on heart disease risk likely would be favourable.

The findings are qualified partly because most research on heart disease risk has been performed on men and scientists are therefore unsure whether their risk calculations apply equally to women.

Handwritten signature: *John J. Skebel*

King to renew bid Iraqis said to execute 20 for looting

(Continued from page 1)

do so over the coming period bearing the unexpected."

"Give peace a chance," he said. The King refused suggestions in the international media that there was a discrepancy in the Jordanian people's thinking and official policy over the Gulf crisis, particularly in light of the close relations between Iraq and Jordan and the international condemnation of Baghdad for its takeover of Kuwait.

"Contrary to ideas that may be floating around," the King said, "Jordan has never been more clear in the thinking and feeling of its people and the leadership alike."

"Obviously, different people in different positions and areas express themselves differently," in a clear reference to the ongoing public demonstrations to support Iraq in the Kingdom.

Answering a question on how he found Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's attitude towards war or peace, the King implied that the Gulf crisis was not simply a question of Iraq taking over Kuwait.

"I have been pleading for sanity," he said. "I have been pleading for people to see what is at stake. I have been pleading on the Arab side for us to solve our problems. I am asking people to think even at the highest levels and in the area to analyse very carefully, to look at the evidence and substance before them to try to look at the motives and to (win) some time which is vital to turning this crisis in the direction it should have taken in the first place."

Although he described the present situation as "depressing and frightening," the King said he was hopeful of a diplomatic solution because he believed Iraq had no intention of further expansion.

Asked how close he thought the region was to war, he replied: "I hope we are not. As I have said, Iraq is holding a defensive posture. I have a feeling that the other forces arrayed against Iraq are also on a defensive posture."

At the same time, he warned, "the possibility of a miscalculation or escalation could bring us into" disaster.

The King described Saddam's attitude as that "of an Arab leader of a state facing tremendous challenges and threats." And he presented an analysis which essentially explained the reasons behind the Iraq vs. U.S. conflict and President Bush attitude towards it.

Following the August 1988 ceasefire between Iraq and Iran, Baghdad representing "something new in the Arab World."

Iraq and its government came under a "concerted effort throughout the world to picture it in a manner that probably reflected to a degree the fears and frustrations of something new emerging in the world," the King said.

"The Arab-Israeli conflict is still unresolved and the Zionist movement has tremendous influence in this world, certainly where the media is concerned in parts of the world and in certain parts of the world as well," the King continued. "It seems to me for a number of months it has focused on Iraq and contributed towards creating suspicions and changing Iraq's image drastically in the minds of many," he said.

"Secondly, there is a new element," he said. "We are living in a new world. The question is not one of two superpowers confronting each other but one that has brought so many changes that were welcomed in the area," the King said. "Now I believe the area is far more important than ever before in terms of the energy resources available in it which may exceed even our expectations. And so with the change, there seems to be an interest in controlling these sources of energy because whatever influences can be brought to bear on this area regarding the sources of energy can have a profound effect on how the world of tomorrow is shaped," the King said.

He said he found no justification for the "physical and psychological nature" of the Gulf military build-up, "which puts us almost on the brink of an eruption in this area which is very difficult to limit," he said.

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Asked whether Jordan was siding with the West by buying oil from Saudi Arabia, the King said: "My country is not siding with anyone but itself and the Arab people and its hopes and aspirations. I have been pleading for time to do so without pressure and interference."

The King also revealed that there were "intimidation, threats and warnings" against Jordan ever since the crisis erupted. "There have been attempts to suggest that our problems could be resolved through assistance and help," he said.

"Jordan is in a very very difficult position but on the other hand it has never been more united. And as far as I am concerned I have made it clear here and there and in Washington and the Arab summit and within the country that I never will be a burden to our country but under no circumstances will I compromise my principles or my beliefs."

The King also indirectly accused identity of having a "desire, strongly, oddly, as it may seem, for blood-letting in the region."

It was the second time in two weeks that the King made the allusion. In an earlier statement, he said that some of his "Arab colleagues" had sought to impede his efforts to mediate the Gulf crisis.

The King reiterated Wednesday that Jordan would comply with the U.N. resolution calling for sanctions against Iraq "after we receive clarifications on what is permitted and what is not. Iraq has said it understands our position which makes it easier on us morally. Officially and factually Jordan adheres to the resolution."

Asked whether he thought Iraq would start military hostilities by firing the "first shot," the King said: "I do not think (Iraq) would, but on the other hand I would like to point out that at the Arab summit, (President Saddam Hussein) said very clearly that attempts were being made to bring Iraq to its knees. It could not meet its basic requirements, it could not pay its war debts or service its debts. So it was facing a state of strangulation. This was the root cause of this tragedy we are facing right now."

The King also implied that Saudi Arabia was misled by the Americans into asking for military help. "I honestly believe Iraq did not intend to move beyond Kuwait. I do not believe there was a military concentration on the Saudi border. I believe, possibly the Saudi leadership was misinformed and others may also have been."

Answering a pointed question on Iraqi attacks on the "corrupt sheikhs of the Gulf," the King said: "I've dealt with the Gulf for many years we have close relations. Whatever happens, we have to reassess the situation, to address the question of haves and have-nots. We need to bridge the gaps. I hope in the future we can solve problems without anger but through reason and logic."

On the questions of westerners held in Iraq, the King said: "I hope the conditions will improve to allow them to leave. Jordan's record reflects its position on the freedom of movement of people. We are trying to find solutions to the problems and this certainly one of them."

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A delegation consisting of several organisers presented the two memoranda to U.S. Counsellor for Political Affairs Pedro Martinez.

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The salesman also said an employee at the Hyatt Regency hotel had told him an Iraqi soldier said to have raped a British Airways stewardess early in the invasion had also been executed.

According to the account of the Jordanian hotel employee, the soldier was tied up at the swimming pool and beaten for six hours by other Iraqi troops. He disappeared overnight and Iraqi soldiers told the employee he had been executed.

The march was organised by the Jordanian women's committee in support of Arab struggle, which is composed of women members of various unions, associations and political groups, with pan-Arab and leftist political leanings.

At a press conference preceding the march, the steering committee read out two memoranda which were later presented to an American embassy official.

The first memorandum was addressed to U.S. President George Bush and the other to American mothers and fathers. Then the committee expressed concern over the dispatch of American and other foreign troops in the Gulf, saying that they saw the deployment as an attempt to "thwart the Arab struggle for political and economic freedom and independence."

The memoranda also held

Wilander falls in 1st round of New York tournament

NEW YORK (AP) — Todd Martin "got rid of everything's that tight — my muscles and my racket" — then got rid of Mats Wilander at the WCT tournament of champions.

"I had nothing to lose, and I was playing like I did," Martin, a student at Northwestern University, said after Wilander slipped through the first set without dropping a game. "In the second set, I broke him and that just gave me so much confidence."

"Martin became the teacher Tuesday night as he upset Wilander, the 1988 U.S. Open champion, 6-6, 6-4, 7-5 in the opening round of the tournament at the West Side Tennis Club."

In the nights final match, Australian Pat Cash, the 1987 Wimbledon winner, averted another upset by ousting Steve Bryan, the collegiate champion from the University of Texas, 5-7, 6-1, 7-5.

It was another disappointment for Wilander, who began his slide after his U.S. Open victory gave him the no. 1 ranking in the world. The Swede began a sabbatical in February and didn't return to the court until the Swedish Open in July.

For Martin, who earlier Tuesday was named to the 1990 collegiate tennis all-star team, it was the biggest victory of his career.

Two weeks ago, he reached the round of 16 at the U.S. Hardcourts in Indianapolis, losing a two-setter to Andre Agassi.

In other first-day matches, Patrick McEnroe surprised Andre

Cherkasov of the Soviet Union 7-6 (8-6), 7-6 (7-1); Spain's Javier Sanchez defeated Alexander Volkov of the Soviet Union 6-2, 7-5; Robert Seguso eliminated Ivan Baron 6-4, 6-2; Sweden's Anders Jorrid stopped Jim Brabb 6-2, 6-4; and Czechoslovakia's Petr Korda downed Eliot Teltscher 7-6 (7-2), 7-6 (7-1).

Wilander raced through the opening set in 21 minutes, dropping just nine points. But Martin broke Wilander to begin the second set, turning the match around.

The 20-year-old right-hander battled through four deuces before holding for a 2-0 advantage, held serve again in the fourth game, then broke Wilander once again in the fifth to increase his margin to 4-1.

Serving for the set at 5-4, Martin lost the first two points before being hit to deuce, took the advantage point with a forehand volley, then closed out the set to level the match with an ace.

In the third set, Martin raced to a 4-0 lead, only to have Wilander pull even at 5-5. But Martin broke right back in the 11th game, then held serve to win.

While rain cancelled the day's matches in the \$250,000 Hamlet Challenge Cup tennis tournament Tuesday, world number one Stefan Edberg spent the hours nap-

ping and practicing between the rain drops.

"I'm enjoying the week, taking it easy," Edberg said as he looked forward to next week's U.S. Open, a title he was never won.

Seeded first at the Hamlet, as the world's newest top-ranked player, Edberg drew a first round bye and will face American David Wheaton when the postponed first round matches are rescheduled.

"Being ranked number one is very important to me," the 1990 Wimbledon champion said. "It will be interesting to see how long I stay there. It's one thing to get there and another thing to stay there."

Edberg replaced Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia atop the list two weeks ago. Lendl, who lost in the first round of last week's Volvo International, fell to number three this week, behind Boris Becker of West Germany who will defend his U.S. Open championship.

The 24-year-old Swede said he has no plans to let go of the number one spot.

"I can see myself number one for a while without injuries," he said. "There's nothing wrong with me. I'm looking as good as ever. It's the best form I've had coming into the U.S. Open since 1987."

That year he reached the semifinals for the second time, losing to countryman Mats Wilander. In 1986, he bowed to Lendl in the semifinals.

Sukova dominates opponent in Jersey Classic

MAHWAH, New Jersey (AP) — Sixth-seeded Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia took only 28 minutes for a 6-0, 6-1 first-round victory in the \$160,000 Pathmark Tennis Classic.

Julianne Gorka, 18, of East Germany won only eight points on her first trip outside her homeland against Sukova, who is ranked 11th in the world.

"I'm sure she can play better, but it's hard to understand how tough it is for a person leaving her country for the first time," said Sukova, the world's top-ranked doubles player.

Chandra Rubin, ranked no. 1 in the U.S. girls' 14s last year, had hoped to duplicate her first round success against Hana Mandlikova.

But Nathalie Tauziat of France won the first 10 games and went on to beat Rubin handily, 6-0, 6-1, in a second-round match.

Tauziat opened the programme nearly seven hours earlier with a comeback victory over 1989 tournament semifinalist Stacey Martin of the United States, 4-6, 6-2, 7-5.

Sukova double-faulted three times and made four unforced errors, while Gorka had a single winner, a backhand service return gave her a break for a 5-1 lead in the second set.

"I lost, but it was very exciting to me," Gorka said. "It was nice of the fans to cheer every time I won a point."

Tauziat, tied in the first-round match with Martin at 5-5 in the third set, gained the decisive break at love in the 11th game on four unforced errors. She held in the 12th to close it out after being forced to one deuce by a pair of double-faults.

Rubin lasted 50 minutes in the second-round with France's no. 1 player. The 14-year-old junior player, a member of the U.S. national team, was impatient and consistently overhit the baseline.

Chinese leader lights torch for Asian Games

PEKING (R) — In the shadow of a giant inflatable panda and with 60,000 "peace pigeons" swirling overhead, Chinese Communist Party Chief Jiang Zemin ignited the official Asian Games torch Peking's Tiananmen Square Wednesday.

The ceremony officially raised the curtain on next month's games, China's first international showcase event which it hopes will erase memories of last year's bloody crackdown on pro-democracy protests.

Barring boycotts because of the Gulf crisis, a total of 6,500 athletes, coaches and officials from 39 countries are expected to attend games opening on Sept. 22.

"Ladies, gentlemen, comrades and friends. The world-famous Asian Games will soon open in Peking," bellowed Mayor Chen Xitong before a crowd in the central Peking square, occupied last summer by protesting students.

Jiang, dressed in a Western suit, walked to a podium, kindled a torch and held it aloft as a

military band struck up a thumping refrain before some 1,000 carefully picked spectators.

Jiang, 63, is the chosen successor of China's senior leader, Deng Xiaoping, who celebrated his 86th birthday Wednesday.

From Tiananmen Square, four torches will be relayed by runners, cars and aircraft over 300,000 kilometres through China before being returned to Peking for the games' opening ceremony.

Officials have taken tough measures to beautify this dusty, polluted city. Criminals have been executed, pet dogs clubbed to death, spitters fined, the homeless expelled and inhabitants of shabby dwellings evicted while their homes are demolished.

Statues of a portly panda prancing on one leg — the emblem of the games — have appeared throughout town.

As Communist leaders trumpet the games as a landmark in China's development, younger people in the capital score it as a waste of the 2.5 billion yuan (\$530 million) it will cost to stage.

CYCLING

Russians meet in amateur individual pursuit finals

MAEBASHI, Japan (AP) — The amateur individual pursuit finals of the World Cycling Championship will be an all-Soviet affair after Evgenii Berzin and Valeri Baturu both won semifinals races Wednesday.

Berzin led all the way and won the race in four minutes, 33.483, 2.393 seconds faster than Steve Hegg of the United States. Hegg was timed in 4:35.87.

Baturu sprinted from the start and led all the way, chased by Mike McCarthy of the United States.

McCarthy finished with the third best time. Hegg finished in fourth place.

Berzin meets Baturu in the finals later Wednesday at the green dome in Maebashi, 100 kilometres northwest of Tokyo.

The amateur individual pursuit finals take place later Wednesday.

Americans Connie Young and Renee Duprel advanced into the semifinals of the women's sprint after winning their quarterfinal matches Wednesday.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY AUGUST 24, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This isn't the best day for getting at the root or the truth of any condition that is of special importance. Be certain to keep any and all promises made and avoid taking any chances.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Charm others early into doing what you desire for them matters come to light and into the open that can threaten some esteem you have carefully built up.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You can achieve benefits after breakfast but this is quickly followed by communications and messages that require change of attitude on your part.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Your own magnetism can get what you want early but soon you find material and financial considerations face you requiring careful attention.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) A private matter pleases you early but soon some personal issues arise that make you feel you cannot gain the things you most desire.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Go after an intimate goal early for you then have a good chance to get it while afterwards you have a worry which will take all evening to unravel.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) The world is your oyster early

so be out early and achieve results while later you have to think hard to gain a longing by time evening breaks.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You are brimming over with charm as you start the day so use it to gain new inspiration but then one in power blocks a wish until tonight when it can be yours.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) A new contact can be your best morning associate after which despite some tension from pending duty you later can gain a whole new success for yourself.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Be with mate as long as possible in the morning before getting into solving a business enigma that upsets you but by tonight it is out of the way.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You can add something that enhances comfort, etc on your environment then you will find it necessary to soothe sensitive associate but by evening all is well again.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Delight make with a compliment or a present in the morning then you can get a fellow associate off a glum mood and by evening cheer is again about.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Make engagement with a special croun you like in the morning before you get into the problems facing you of some creative work which is solved by you.

DOWN

1. Bail

2. "Familial" (Glide)

3. Nothing doing

4. Rock keeps tearing?

5. Audacity

6. Govern

7. Nabokov novel

8. Pie type

9. Emma

10. Customers for

11. Take notice

12. "Bus Stop" playwright

13. Inferior

14. Gaze angrily

15. One of ten

16. Lawbreaker

17. Trench in

18. Connection

19. Guitar kin

20. Cancel

21. Gloomy

22. Declines

23. Rooters

24. Admirer

25. One

26. Squelch

27. Gospel

28. Wood strip

29. Tracking aid

30. Fastener

31. Not defunct

32. Fr. artist

33. Exchange

34. 7th musical

35. Norse god

36. Wood section

37. Germ. shape

38. Unified

E. German swimming system collapsing

EAST BERLIN (R) — East Germany's swimming system, the most successful in the world, is close to collapse, the president of the sport's DSSV federation said Wednesday.

After years of close attention and lavish financing that helped East Germans win dozens of Olympic and world championship medals, they face mounting problems in training, medical care and other areas because the money

has dried up.

"The most successful swimming country is disappearing," DSSV President Wilfried Windolf said.

"People are going to other jobs or abroad, years of experience is just flowing away," he said.

"Considerable parts of our swimming structure are already broken."

He said this included the system of selecting youngsters, cultivating them in training centres

and allocating clubs.

"There are grave restrictions in matching training to school education. The structures are cracking right down to sports medical care," he said.

West Germany's DSV Federation has agreed to merge with the DSSV in time to stage joint championships in November and to compete as a single team at the world championships in Perth next January.

Juventus seeks to be on the winning side again

MILAN (AP) — Times are tight and getting tighter for the Italian auto industry. But not even a looming recession could keep the nation's top carmaking family from investing a fortune to revive the prestige and glory of its jewel — Juventus.

Gianni Agnelli, president of the Fiat auto maker and head of the Juventus first division soccer club, has spent more than \$40 million in transfer fees to build a super squad for one of Italy's most famous teams.

With the Italian League season three weeks away, Juventus is considered a favourite, having added some of the most valued domestic and foreign talent.

Agnelli, who controls the club through the family holding company IFI, declared after a fourth

consecutive season without winning a league title that the time had come "to be on the winning side again."

He began by purchasing Italian forward Roberto Baggio from Fiorentina of Florence at a record transfer fee of \$15 million.

The 23-year-old's price exceeded that of 1986 World Cup most valuable player Diego Maradona of Napoli and Dutch international Ruud Gullit of Milan. They each cost their Italian clubs between \$10 million and \$12 million.

Following Italia '90, Juventus added Thomas Haessler of the World Cup champion West Germany, paying his Germany club Cologne nearly \$9 million.

The campaign continued with

the signing of veteran Brazilian defender Julio Cesar from France's Montpellier and young forward Paolo Di Canio from Lazio of Rome.

The transfer of Baggio touched off demonstrations by irate Fiorentina fans, who jered the Italian national team at their World Cup training camp just outside Florence.

It enabled Juventus to reunite Baggio with Salvatore "Toto" Schillaci, whose tournament-leading six goals lifted Italy to third place in the World Cup.

"We can hardly hide our ambitions for the next season," said coach Gigi Maifredi. "We are in the running for the league title and the cups."

Juventus has won a record 22 Italian League titles and captured

the UEFA Cup last season. It will compete in the European Cup-winners Cup this year.

Already, Juventus has excited fans with pre-season performances.

On Sunday against second-division Brescia, Schillaci scored twice and Baggio and Di Canio also added goals in a 5-1 rout.

Schillaci aims at succeeding Milan's Marco van Basten as the Italian League's top striker when the season starts on Sept. 9.

The team's restructuring also has included Maifredi, who arrived from Bologna to replace Dino Zoff, and a new president, Vittorio Chiusano, a Turin industrialist and a friend of the Agnelli's, was named to replace long-time President Giampiero Boniperti.

Mutt'n'Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY AUGUST 23, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: It isn't a day for new beginning but you do have a chance to broaden the scope of your thinking and resolve some of the questions that have been concerning you in the past.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Finish correspondence and communications early and then think about what your own household desires and despite an obstacle you can achieve towards it.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Material concerns can be wiped off your list early after which you can try to force your views on others unless careful; tonight all works out well.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) This morning bring a good chance to improve appearance, then you feel you do not have enough abundance but don't force issue and tonight brings you security.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) After breakfast get rid of a secret anxiety, then you will want to bend others to your will but don't and in the evening they do what you want of their own volition.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Combine efforts early with friends to finish a joint project, then you will want to get from under a restriction which works itself out by evening.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Get a civic or credit condition behind you in morning, then you

will want to lambast who has broken a promise but by tonight it has been done.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You have to wind up some new data you have obtained from a new course before you get into that worldly condition that irks but by evening it's ok.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Whatever requires settling an account should be done early for then you can get off to a new interest requiring effort to solve which can be done by evening.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Complete some promise you have made in the morning, then you will be able to tackle a tense situation which can be solved before the sun goes down.

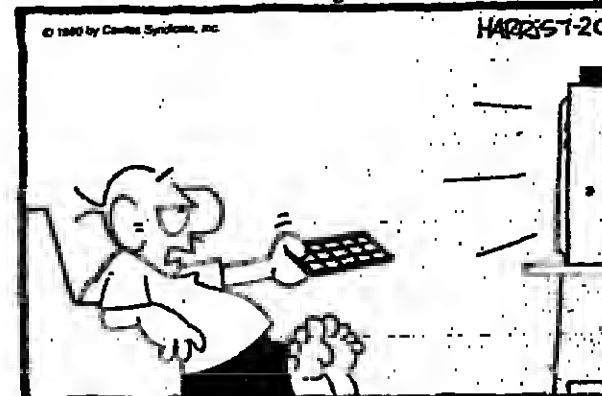
CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You can finally get a work matter resolved in the morning and then you can look at that disturbing outside condition and by evening have it worked out.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Make definite appointments for a good time with companions after breakfast, then you will be able to put effort to eliminate business problems.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Conscientiously attend that family matter in the morning for then you will be able to get out from under some problems and enjoy entertainments and recreations.

THE BETTER HALF.

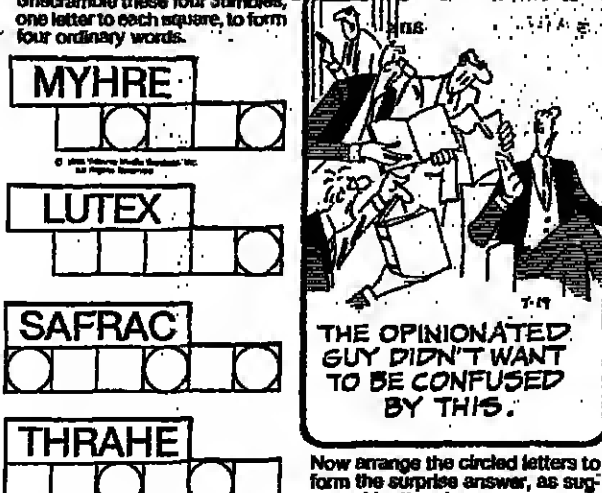
By Harris



"Remote control isn't all that convenient — you still have to move your thumb!"

JUMBLE.

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Print answer here: _____

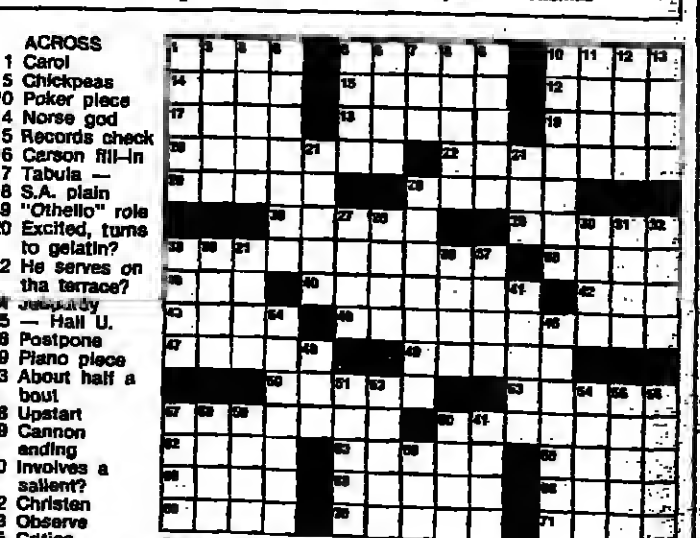
(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: NAVAL TASTY STIGMA RADIUS

Answer: The regatta was so full of sailboats that it made one think of this — "MAST" TRANSIT

THE Daily Crossword

by Richard Thomas



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solver



Uganda hikes fuel prices

KAMPALA (R) — Uganda has become the second African country after Zambia to raise oil prices due to the Gulf crisis and says more increases are likely.

Energy Minister Richard Kaijuka told parliament Tuesday night that prices of all petroleum products would rise by up to 17 per cent immediately, due to an increase of nearly 50 per cent in Gulf oil prices in the past two weeks.

"In order for the government to maintain the quantities it has been purchasing for \$6 million per month, an additional \$2 million will now be required," Kaijuka said.

Zambia raised petrol and diesel prices by almost 50 per cent Monday, citing difficulty in obtaining fuel from the Gulf.

Super grade petrol in Uganda would now cost 17 per cent more at 360 shillings (82 cents) a litre, up from 310 shillings (70 cents), while the price of diesel rose to 270 shillings (61 cents) a litre, from 230 shillings (52 cents).

Kerosene would cost 240 shillings (55 cents) a litre, an increase of nearly 14.5 per cent over 210 shillings (48 cents).

Kaijuka said the government would take further action if the need arose.

"I am therefore appealing to the motoring public to restrain as much as possible from luxurious driving," he added.

Bahrain Monetary Agency takes over Iraqi bank

BAHRAIN (R) — The Bahrain Monetary Agency (BMA) said Wednesday it was taking over management of the local branch of Iraq's government-owned Rafidain Bank.

The BMA said it took the step in response to a request from the bank's managers in Bahrain.

Banking officials said the commercial branch had been hit by liquidity and solvency problems after its overseas assets were frozen following Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait.

"People are continually trying to withdraw funds — we have enough money but our bank accounts are blocked," a spokesman for the bank said.

Chartered accountants Ernst and Young had been appointed to handle the bank's affairs, the BMA said.

In accordance with Bahrain law, this would continue for six months at the end of which the bank would either resume operating or close, banking officials said.

Refinery in Zambia closes

LUSAKA, Zambia (AP) — Zambia's main state-owned refinery was shut down as oil supplies from the Gulf dried up, officials said Wednesday.

Workers were sent home when the plant at the copperbelt town Ndola, 336 kilometres north of Lusaka, closed Tuesday, refinery spokesman Salvatore Miele said.

Miele said Zambia may begin rationing fuel soon.

Panic buying from gas stations has also worsened a domestic fuel shortage, Miele said.

Zambia receives its crude oil by pipeline from the Indian Ocean port of Dar Es Salaam in neighbouring Tanzania.

Last Sunday, the government increased gasoline prices by about 50 per cent because of the crisis in the Gulf.

Zambia was the first southern African nation to announce a hike in fuel prices since Iraq's invasion of Kuwait pushed up world oil prices.

Bank of America closes Bahrain office

BAHRAIN (R) — Bank of America said Wednesday it was closing down in Bahrain but stressed that the Gulf crisis had not been a major factor in the decision.

"We are winding down our Bahrain operations as a result of a continuing review of the bank's international strategy for business," Zakir Mahmood, the bank's vice president for the Gulf, told Reuters.

"The Gulf crisis has had very little impact on our decision. We will continue to serve the area in a more cost effective manner from London," he said.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES			
Wednesday, August 22, 1990 Central Bank official rates			
Buy	Sell	French franc	124.9 125.6
U.S. dollar	656.0 660.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	446.9 449.6
Forward Sterling	1259.6 1267.2	Deutsche mark	373.0 375.2
Deutsche mark	420.2 422.7	Swedish crown	114.0 114.7
Swiss franc	510.1 513.2	Italian lire (for 100)	56.7 57.0
		Belgian franc (for 10)	204.6 205.8

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES			
LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.			
One Sterling	1.9200/10	U.S. dollar	
One U.S. dollar	1.1375/85	Canadian dollar	
	1.5590/95	Deutsche mark	
	1.7560/70	Dutch guilders	
	1.2860/70	Swiss francs	
	32.04/09	Belgian francs	
	5.2400/50	French francs	
	1159/1160	Italian lire	
	146.30/40	Japanese yen	
	5.7450/7500	Swedish crown	
	6.0435/85	Norwegian crown	
	5.9915/65	Danish crown	
One ounce of gold	409.10/409.60	U.S. dollars	

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	32.04/09	Belgian francs	
	5.2400/50	French francs	
	1159/1160	Italian lire	
	146.30/40	Japanese yen	
	5.7450/7500	Swedish crown	
	6.0435/85	Norwegian crown	
	5.9915/65	Danish crown	
One ounce of gold	409.10/409.60	U.S. dollars	

Cinema Tel: 625155

RAINBOW

Nabila Obeld — Salah Gabeel

In

THE DANCER AND THE POLITICIAN

(Arabic)

Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 677420

CONCORD

Dured Lahham

Madeline Tabar

In

KAFROUN

3:30, 6:45, 8:45, 10:45

OXFORD BLUSE

5:15 only

Cinema Tel: 634144

PHILADELPHIA

TWO MOON JUNCTION

Performances: 3:45, 6:15, 8:30 and 10:30 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 675571

NIJOUN

POLICE ACADEMY 6

Performances: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

Friday & Sunday extra show at 11:00 a.m.

Cinema Tel: 699238

PLAZA

POLICE ACADEMY 6

Performances: 12:30, 3:45, 6:45, 8:45, 10:45

Iraq reminds Europe, Japan of oil dependence

NICOSIA (R) — Iraq told energy-hungry Japan and Western Europe Wednesday it now controlled a bigger share of the world's oil and their real interests lay with Baghdad and not the United States.

In an apparent attempt to divide the U.S.-led backing for U.N. sanctions, Iraq said that Washington, by massing its forces in the Gulf region, wanted unilaterally to put its hands on the world's largest oil reservoir.

The government newspaper Al Jumhuriya said Iraq's oil reserves had swollen after Baghdad annexed Kuwait following its Aug. 2 takeover of its oil-rich neighbour.

"The new Iraq owns a big share of the world oil reserves that will establish it as a regional power that is worth taking into consideration," the paper said in an editorial carried by the Iraqi News Agency (INA) received in Cyprus.

Oil industry sources estimated the two countries reserves at over 200 billion barrels, or 20 per cent of the world's total.

"What interest have Europe and Japan in their blind rush behind the American plot that

aims at allowing Washington to impose its hegemony on the European and Japanese decision and control their economy in the future?" asked the paper.

"Washington ... wants to control the production and price levels of oil," it added.

Japan, the world's second biggest importer after the United States, receives more than 70 per cent of its oil from the Gulf. Most European countries also rely heavily on the region for their energy needs.

"The main objective of the American plot ... is to diminish the role of Europe and Japan in the area," the paper warned.

"If the aim of European and Japanese politicians is to demonstrate their solidarity with Washington, they are putting their future relations and interests at risk, not only with Iraq," Al Jumhuriya said.

"They should have no illusion that Iraq could lose this battle," it added.

"It is certain that Arabs will treat the interests of any country that collaborates with the American aggressors the same way they treat American interests," it concluded.

"The fear is that the norm will be placing and breaking of deposits before maturity — this is in violation of established rules and practices of banking and not justified from our point of view," he said.

He said the BMA had cancelled its weekly issues of government treasury bills because it did not want to borrow from an already tight market.

"We thought we would suspend the tenders for a few weeks because in a situation like this you have to maintain a high degree of liquidity in the market," he said.

Sheikh Ibrahim said the move would hit Bahrain's budget deficit by the effects would be manageable and would be offset by higher prices for crude oil, on which Bahrain depends for about 60 per cent of its revenues.

Other steps taken by the BMA included telling banks to accept the Saudi, Qatari, Omani and United Arab Emirates currencies at set exchange rates plus or minus a maximum margin of 0.5 per cent.

Several Bahrain banks suffered badly when the U.S. treasury put them on a danger list for having major Kuwait connections.

Although the treasury has since lifted the warning for most firms, bankers say the message has still not reached many banks with which they do business.

Thousands of Egyptians have been streaming out of Iraq and Kuwait, many penniless.

Egypt, with a foreign debt of \$50 billion, faces a growing jobless rate, a huge budget deficit and high population growth.

Thousands of people, primarily women and children, fled Saudi Arabia, which is home to 25,000 Americans. Aramco voluntarily sent 4,000 people out of the country.

A top Saudi official in the port city of Jubail estimated that \$10 billion worth of joint venture projects scheduled to begin in 1992 and 1993 will be postponed.

He and the handful of other foreign businessmen who remain in Saudi Arabia were interviewed in the recreation room of a housing compound where they gathered to watch the evening news.

The Saudi official cited several examples of aborted projects, including a Japanese power project. Bevec also said he received

notice that a new water system project for the border town of Khafji has been halted.

Bevec's company, Ameron of Monterey Park, California, makes concrete and epoxy pipes.

Some firms have shut down their operations in the Khafji area, including Schlumberger, the oil equipment concern.

Others are operating with skeleton staffs, as only 5,000 Americans remain in the region.

The post-invasion panic extended to the banking industry, according to an American executive at a Saudi bank who did not want to be identified by name.

In the first week, people withdrew massive amounts of money, he said, although the situation has since stabilised.

Over the long haul, the invasion is certain to hurt new investment and cause difficulties in attracting skilled people, the businessmen said.

"I think you will see fewer new projects with outside money," said Doug Watts, a partner in the accounting firm of Deloitte and Touche. "Investors are going to want a higher reward because of a higher risk."

In the past, foreign investment in the area has been enormous. Jubail, where Bevec said the U.S. marines are based, has the largest petrochemical manufacturing plant in the world, according to Abdullah Ibn Faisal Ibn Turki, secretary general of the Royal Commission for Jubail and Yanbu.

He said the government has spent \$16 billion developing the two cities, and \$25 billion in foreign money has been invested there.

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Japan pledged cash aid to Egypt

CAIRO (R) — Japan pledged economic aid for Egypt Wednesday after President Hosni Mubarak said his country stood to lose \$2 billion a year in foreign exchange because of the Gulf crisis.

Mubarak gave the figure in an 80-minute meeting with Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama in the Mediterranean city of Alexandria. Japanese spokesman Makoto Yamataka told reporters in Cairo.

The Egyptian leader said the loss would result from cuts in remittances from Egyptians working in the Gulf, reduced Suez Canal tolls and a fall in tourism.

Nakayama and his Egyptian counterpart Esmat Abdol Meguid would discuss details of economic aid later, Yamataka said.

Thousands of Egyptians have been streaming out of Iraq and Kuwait, many penniless.

Egypt, with a foreign debt of \$50 billion, faces a growing jobless rate, a huge budget deficit and high population growth.

Thousands of people, primarily women and children, fled Saudi Arabia, which is home to 25,000 Americans. Aramco voluntarily sent 4,000 people out of the country.

A top Saudi official in the port city of Jubail estimated that \$10 billion worth of joint venture projects scheduled to begin in 1992 and 1993 will be postponed.

He and the handful of other foreign businessmen who remain in Saudi Arabia were interviewed in the recreation room of a housing compound where they gathered to watch the evening news.

The Saudi official cited several examples of aborted projects, including a Japanese power project. Bevec also said he received

notice that a new water system project for the border town of Khafji has been halted.

Bevec's company, Ameron of Monterey Park, California, makes concrete and epoxy pipes.

Some firms have shut down their operations in the Khafji area, including Schlumberger, the oil equipment concern.

Others are operating with skeleton staffs, as only 5,000 Americans remain in the region.

The post-invasion panic extended to the banking industry, according to an American executive at a Saudi bank who did not want to be identified by name.

In the first week, people withdrew massive amounts of money, he said, although the situation has since stabilised.

Over the long haul, the invasion is certain to hurt new investment and cause difficulties in attracting skilled people, the businessmen said.

"I think you will see fewer new projects with outside money," said Doug Watts, a partner in the accounting firm of Deloitte and Touche. "Investors are going to want a higher reward because of a higher risk."

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Taylor threatens W. Africans as multinational force delays arrival

HARBEL, Liberia (R) — Liberian rebel leader Charles Taylor made veiled threats Tuesday that reprisals might be taken against West African civilians if a regional peacekeeping force entered the country.

Some 3,000 troops from five West African countries are on their way to Liberia to police a truce between government forces and a breakaway rebel group.

"The price of a soldier landing on Liberian territory is going to be very expensive for all parties involved," Taylor told reporters.

"For every Liberian that's killed I'm going to make sure some other nationals get killed too," Taylor said. "If a Liberian dies, why shouldn't a Nigerian die, a Ghanaian die?"

Asked whether West African civilians trapped in Liberia would be the target of tit-for-tat killings, Taylor replied: "I cannot claim to have total control over any soldiers in the field."

Taylor, leader of the mainstream National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL), has vowed to fight any foreign intervention in the eight-month-old civil war.

He has refused to let citizens of countries involved in the peace force leave rebel-held territory.

Some 2,000 Nigerian citizens

have taken sanctuary in their embassy behind rebel lines in Monrovia.

About 60 Guineans are held up in their ambassador's residence nearby.

Rebels stormed the Guinean embassy two weeks ago, threatening the ambassador at gunpoint and forcing some 5,000 Guinean refugees into the street.

Rebels have also entered the Nigerian compound, seizing two diplomatic cars.

Other West Africans are scattered in diplomatic compounds around the capital or in the huge Fendell refugee camp outside Monrovia.

Nigerians say at least six of their compatriots have been killed at Fendell by Taylor's rebels, who accuse Lagos of supporting beleaguered President Samuel Doe.

"They are not refugees, they are aggressors," said Taylor, speaking at his Harbel headquarters about 60 kilometres from Monrovia.

"They are all going to bear the brunt of this."

The peacekeeping force, under the banner of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), comprises troops from Nigeria, Ghana, Guinea, Sierra Leone and the Gambia.

Taylor said his forces were on full alert to repel any peacekeeping troops trying to enter the country.

They were keeping a special watch on land borders with Sierra Leone and Guinea, and on Monrovia's port and airfields.

"We have not agreed, we will not agree to any ceasefire," he said.

Thousands of civilians have been killed, many in massacres, since Taylor invaded Liberia from the Ivory Coast in December to topple Doe.

Doe is holed up with a few hundred soldiers in his fortified cliff-top mansion in Monrovia.

Taylor was beaten in the advance to capture downtown Monrovia by a breakaway group of rebels under former Taylor commander Prince Johnson.

Meanwhile the West African force for Liberia, already aboard ships in Freetown, delayed departure Wednesday pending the outcome of last minute negotiations on a ceasefire in the country's civil war.

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) began emergency ceasefire talks in Gambia Tuesday with representatives of the main Liberian rebel movement led by Taylor.

ECOWAS sources in the Sierra Leone capital Freetown said Wednesday that Taylor's attitude seemed to be changing.

The 3,000-strong peacekeeping force, officially known as the ECOWAS Monitoring Group (ECOMOG), had been due to leave Freetown aboard Nigerian and Ghanaian vessels Tuesday night.

On Wednesday morning ECOMOG spokesman, Major Chris Ofulana of Nigeria, told reporters "leaving for Monrovia will depend on the outcome of the meeting in Banjul."

"Charles Taylor is saying that he will not welcome any ECOWAS forces until an agreement is reached, so the meeting in Banjul is still in progress," he added.

Taylor did not attend the talks as he had pledged, but ECOWAS sources said he was represented in the Gambian capital by his official spokesman Tom Woeviyu.

Asked what was stalling the negotiations, Ofulana said: "I think he is worried about the unpredictability of Samuel Doe."

Ofulana's remarks indicated that Taylor was still seeking guarantees Doe would go on once a truce is declared.

Kohl wants E. Germany to unite by Oct. 6

EAST BERLIN (AP) — West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl wants East Germany to dissolve and unite with his country on Oct. 6, one day before East Germany's founding as a sovereign nation, sources said Wednesday.

The preference of Kohl, who has been able to dictate most of the pace of unification, throws yet another date into the politically charged debate over when East and West Germany should unify.

West German government sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Kohl wants unity to take place one day before the 41st anniversary of East Germany's founding as a Communist state on Oct. 7.

The date was proposed by Guenter Krause, Prime Minister Lothar de Maiziere's top aide and the country's leading unification official.

Kohl and De Maiziere are both Christian Democrats who have been battling the left-leaning Social Democrats in both countries over the timing of unity.

As late as Tuesday, De Maiziere favoured that unity take place on Oct. 14, when elections are held to create the five states that East Germany will become in a united nation. Then Krause proposed the Oct. 6 date.

However, East German Social Democrat spokesman Helga Wanke said her party rejected the Oct. 6 date. She said the party was standing firm on its insistence that unity take place on Sept. 15.

East Germany will unite by approving a clause in the West German constitution that allows former German lands to accede to the Western nation.

The Social Democrats say they want unity to come in mid-September so that West Germany and Kohl can more quickly assume direct responsibility for East Germany's failing economy.

Joblessness has been climbing since East Germany converted to a free market on July 1.

But the Social Democrats also want quick unity so Kohl, they say, will be forced to admit the true costs of bailing out the East German economy.

Both parties are in the midst of a political campaign to lead the united nation. Common German elections are tentatively set for Dec. 2.

An apparent East German agreement to unite on Oct. 14 fell apart the day before when the Social Democrats, the nation's second-largest party, defied their leader and rejected a call for unity to take place on Oct. 14.

Richard Schroeder, the head of the Social Democrat faction in parliament, had agreed to the proposal. He resigned from his post.

14 killed in renewed S. African tribal violence

JOHANNESBURG (R) — At least 14 people were killed Wednesday when rival Xhosa and Zulus battled with guns, axes and spears, ignoring appeals to end violence that has killed at least 444 people in 10 days.

Police and witnesses said rival bands of Zulus and Xhosas clashed early Wednesday at a sprawling hostel complex for migrant workers at Vosloorus, south-east of Johannesburg. Scores of armed Xhosas stormed the complex, grappling with Zulus in hand-to-hand fighting as the hostels were set on fire.

"It was awful. The bodies had been castrated. There were lots of burnt bodies," said a local journalist. "Everyone was in shock."

Witnesses said they counted at least 14 bodies around the complex and there appeared to be more inside. Many of the bodies had been mutilated, they said.

Police moved in after dawn, firing tear gas to break up the fighting. Police officers gathered bodies, putting them into small piles to be taken away.

Police also said at least 18 people had been killed in a separate clash overnight in Kagiso township, west of Johannesburg. Xhosas fought with Zulus, who also lived at a migrant workers' hostel, and set up burning barricades in streets to try warding off attacks, witnesses said.

The killings raised the casualty toll for the last 10 days to at least 444 dead with hundreds more injured, police said. Police said they were finding dozens of new bodies and the death toll likely would increase.

The fighting that began on Aug. 12 pits Zulus of the conservative Inkatha movement against Xhosas of the African National Congress.

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ity guard, said fighting erupted in Kagiso when armed Zulus from the hostel attacked passersby.

"They attacked an old man with an axe and killed him," he said. "After a while they attacked another two people, killing them both."

A 13-month baby was burned to death in a house that was firebombed Tuesday night in KwaThema, according to news reports.

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Armed blacks also hurled firebombs at police armoured vehicles and shots were fired at police patrols in Kagiso, police said.

"Blacks threw stones and petrol bombs at police. In two cases they fired shots at police, who fired tear gas and then birdshot in retaliation," said police spokesman Lt. Ida Van Zweel.

A white security guard working for a private company was shot and killed in Soweto late Tuesday, police said.

Government and black leaders Tuesday had called for an end to the fighting. Government officials also said they hoped the ANC, which did not take part in the talks, would now join peace efforts.

But senior ANC leaders declined to say if the organisation would aid peace efforts. ANC leader Nelson Mandela has refused to meet with Inkatha leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi.

In talks Tuesday in Pretoria, President F.W. de Klerk conferred separately with Buthelezi and Gen. Bantu Holomisa, head of the Xhosa homeland of Transkei.

Sri Lankan Air Force bombs Tamil rebel targets

COLOMBO (R) — Air force fighter planes bombed and strafed Tamil bunkers Wednesday in what appeared to be the prelude to a major assault in northern Sri Lanka.

Two army battalions numbering up to 2,000 men also began moving out of their camps in the north, military sources said.

Unconfirmed reports said a curfew had been imposed on the northern Jaffna peninsula, the main stronghold of the separatist rebels, and residents told to stay indoors.

The fighting followed rebel attacks at four army camps in Jaffna Tuesday. A policeman was killed and another wounded in the assault on Jaffna camp, which is inside a 300-year-old colonial fort.

The sources said air force planes bombed rebel targets while soldiers at the navy base at

Karainagar opened fire with artillery on rebel bunkers outside the camp.

They said two battalions from the Sinha and Gajaba regiments were moving out of Karainagar Camp. There was little rebel resistance, they said.

The attacks could not be independently confirmed. There were no reports of casualties.

Jaffna is the main base of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, the most powerful guerrilla group fighting for a separate homeland in the north and east for 2.5 million Tamil minority.

More than 2,500 people have died in 10 weeks of fighting since the rebels began a fresh offensive in June.

Deputy Defence Minister Ranjan Wijeratne said recently that security forces would hit hard at the rebels in their northern strongholds.

Canadian police arrest 40 Indians

SETON PORTAGE, British Columbia (AP) — The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) Tuesday arrested about 40 Indians who continued to block a rail line in defiance of a court order to end their protest over land claims.

The Indians, who offered little resistance, had asked inspector Jack Latimer to charge the British Columbia government with theft of their land.

They set up the blockade Friday, beating drums and chanting slogans in protest against the handling of their claims by the provincial government.

Latimer, of the Kamloops Detachment, first warned the Indians through a bullhorn: "You have violated an injunction and are committing an offense of section 127 of the criminal code of Canada."

The section covers disobeying court orders and lays out possible penalties.

He then ordered his 60 officers to begin arresting protesters blocking the BC Rail Line. The first arrested were three Indian leaders of the St'at'imc Nation.

RCMP Sgt. Peter Montague said in Vancouver that the Mounties carried no batons or any weapons when the arrests were made.

The BC Rail Line runs between Vancouver and Prince George.

BC Rail obtained the supreme court injunction Saturday, saying it was losing more than \$635,000 a day because of the blockade.

The blockade was also carried out in part to support Mohawks in Oka, Quebec, who have been in an armed standoff with police and now the armed forces since July 11.

Talks in that confrontation resumed Tuesday.

The dispute arose over the Oka community's plans to expand a golf course onto what the Mohawks said was ancestral land.

A police attempt to remove a Mohawk barricade led to the shooting death of an officer, but responsibility in the death remains to be established.

Karistanoran, a Mohawk spokesman who uses one name, said proposals now call for full sovereignty in all Mohawk communities in Canada.

Armenia considers independence declaration

MOSCOW (AP) — Armenia's parliament debated a declaration of independence and considered setting up its own army for protection from neighbouring Azerbaijan, Soviet media reported.

Azerbaijan's president responded by calling for sanctions against Armenia and warning that his republic might be forced to take steps to guarantee its security, the state agency TASS said.

Armenia, a predominantly Christian republic, and Azerbaijan, which is primarily Muslim, have been engaged in bloody conflict for more than two years over Nagorno-Karabakh, an enclave in Azerbaijan with a predominantly Armenian population.

The spiral of ethnic violence, mixed with aspirations of independence, has been a major problem for the Kremlin. Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev has repeatedly warned that such divisions endanger his "perestroika" programme of economic and political reforms.

In the latest fighting, Armenian militants marching behind dump trucks attacked and burned the Azerbaijani village of Bagani-Airmu Monday after driving off Soviet troops, TASS reported.

One Soviet officer was killed, and four soldiers and four civilians were wounded in the attack, TASS said.

On Tuesday, the Armenian Supreme Soviet met in the republic's capital of Yerevan, about 1,900 kilometres southeast of Moscow, to consider a declaration proclaiming Armenia a "sovereign, independent and self-governing state," the independent news service Interfax reported.

One proposed chapter of the declaration calls for establishment of Armenia's own armed forces, interior troops and public security units, Interfax said.

The proposed declaration also would bar "any foreign country" — presumably including the Soviet Union — from deploying military units on Armenian territory without permission, Interfax said.

The two richest people on the face of the Earth are oil barons, the magazine reported Tuesday.

Sultan Haji Hassanali Bolikhah, leader of the oil-rich Pacific Sultanate of Brunei, retained Fortune's top title for the fourth straight year with an estimated worth of \$25 billion, unchanged from 1989.

Saudi Arabia's King Fahd and clan, a focus of the Gulf crisis, ranked second with assets worth \$18 billion, also unchanged from last year.

Fortune spokeswoman Emma Dockendorf said those estimates were based partly on oil prices in mid-July, when one barrel of crude fetched about \$18.

Prices have since surged to about \$28 a barrel following Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait and the U.S. move to protect neighbouring Saudi Arabia. That price jump would make the sultan and the king potentially even wealthier.

The ranks of Fortune's richest — bankrolled by assets ranging from oil to sneakers to ball bearings — swelled by 25 names this year to 182 individuals and families, controlling a combined worth of \$471.3 billion.

That's up about 7 per cent from last year.

Fortune released its fourth annual ranking in its Sept. 10 issue. It said the average entrant's wealth was only slightly higher compared with last year after adjusting for inflation.

But the average fortune was still worth about \$2.6 billion, which if invested in 7.5 per cent U.S. Treasury bills would earn \$354,000 a day.

"True, you shouldn't feel too sorry for folks who have their money on islands and castles, use Remmors for wallpaper and control, in the aggregate, \$471.3 billion," Fortune said.

As competitor Forbes Maga-

Fortune Magazine's billionaires worth \$500b

zine did in its annual list released last month, Fortune ditched New York real estate tycoon Donald Trump, whose real estate and casino empire is bogged down in debt.

Fortune placed Trump in a separate category of fallen magnates, who also included troubled takeover strategist James Goldsmith and convicted Wall Street financier Michael Milken.

Ranked third on Fortune's list was the reclusive Mars family of the United States, whose holdings include Mars Inc. candy bars, Uncle Ben's rice and Kal-Kan pet food, worth \$12.5 billion.

Fourth was Britain's Queen Elizabeth II, the wealthiest woman, with an untaxed personal fortune of \$11.7 billion in riches ranging from 267,000 acres of real estate to racehorses, crown jewels and a vast stock portfolio.

Fifth was the Newhouse family of the United States, owners of a large media empire, worth \$11.5 billion. Sixth was the Reichmann

family of Canada, with extensive real estate holdings valued at \$11.1 billion. Tied for seventh were Yoshiaki Tsutsumi, Japan's richest industrialist, and Arkansas retailing mogul Sam Walton, both valued at \$7.3 billion.

Eighth was John W. Kluge of the United States, owner of media giant Metromedia Inc., valued at \$7.0 billion. Ninth was Tsai Wan-Lin and family of Taiwan, owners of a construction and insurance empire worth \$6.5 billion. 10th was the Thomson family, owners of Canada's biggest newspaper chain.

The magazine based estimates of net worth on what it called "published information or appraisals of asset values." To qualify, each prospect needed a net worth of \$1 billion or more after subtracting debt.

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COLUMN

Nephew challenges Garbo's will

NEW YORK (R) — A nephew of Greta Garbo has claimed the star was so addled with illness and alcohol during her last years that she was incapable of properly writing a will to distribute her estate worth up to \$100 million.

A 13-month baby was burned to death in a house that was firebombed Tuesday night in KwaThema, according to news reports.

A black police officer was killed and another officer critically injured when two black men hurled a Soviet-made grenade into their vehicle in Soweto early Wednesday, according to the independent South African Press Association.

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A black police officer was killed and another officer critically injured when two black men hurled a Soviet-made grenade into their vehicle in Soweto early Wednesday, according to the independent South African Press Association.

Armed blacks also hurled firebombs at police armoured vehicles and shots were fired at police patrols in Kagiso, police said.

"Blacks threw stones and petrol bombs at police. In two cases they fired shots at police, who fired tear gas and then birdshot in retaliation," said police spokesman Lt. Ida Van Zweel.

A white security guard working for a private company was shot and killed in Soweto late Tuesday, police said.

Government and black leaders Tuesday had called for an end to the fighting. Government officials also said they hoped the ANC, which did not take part in the talks, would now join peace efforts.

But senior ANC leaders declined to say if the organisation would aid peace efforts. ANC leader Nelson Mandela has refused to meet with Inkatha leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi.

In talks Tuesday in Pretoria, President F.W. de Klerk conferred separately with Buthelezi and Gen. Bantu Holomisa, head of the Xhosa homeland of Transkei.

Maxwell Mulovhedzi, a secur-

Baltic states move towards talks with Kremlin on independence

MOSCOW (AP) — Estonia announced Tuesday it would open the first formal talks on independence with the Kremlin Thursday, the 51st anniversary of the Hitler-Stalin pact that led to Soviet annexation of the Baltic republics.

Latvian officials said their negotiations on independence would begin with Soviet authorities within 10 days. There was no confirmation from the Kremlin that it would begin talks with either republic.

In the Lithuanian capital of Vilnius, lawmakers named an eight-member panel to represent the republic in the talks.

All three republics have been in the forefront of efforts to win their independence from the Soviet Union, which forcibly absorbed them after Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union signed a non-aggression pact in 1939.

The pact also cleared the way for Germany to invade Poland about a week later, marking the start of World War II.

After decades of denials, Soviet officials finally admitted in August 1989 that a secret deal with Adolf Hitler had decided control of the Baltics to the Kremlin.

Baltic activists have long maintained that the secret agreement and the republics' annexation by the Soviet Union were illegal.

Activists plan bonfire demonstrations in all three republics Thursday to make the anniversary. Church bells are to be rung at the same time throughout the region along the Soviet Union's western border.

Endel Lippmaa, the Estonian government minister in charge of negotiations with the Kremlin, told the Associated Press in a telephone interview that the republic's five-member delegation would begin talks with Soviet officials in Moscow Thursday.

He said the talks were aimed at full independence for Estonia. He stressed that Estonia was not interested in remaining in the Soviet Union in a new confederation or in a new federal government structure.

In Moscow, Latvian officials met for more than two hours with Soviet authorities to discuss independence-related issues.

Andrejs Krastins, deputy chairman of the republic's parliament, said the first formal talks between the Kremlin and any of the three Baltic republics would open Thursday in Moscow.

"The talks will be between two equal partners," he told a news conference.

The Soviet TV programme Vremya made no mention of any upcoming talks or an agreement by Soviet officials to deal with the Latvians as equals. The Soviet News Agency (TASS) reported the claims by the Latvian officials, but also did not confirm any commitment by the Soviet side.

Latvia also promised to protect non-Latvians on its territory — mainly Russians — but also claimed that threats against non-Latvians had been exaggerated.